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A Librarian's Calendar

April 27th-May 6th.—Third Antiquarian Book Fair, National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, W.1.

April 27th.—Medical Section, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, Walter House, 52 Bedford Street, W.C.2. Symposium on reference methods in medical libraries.

April 29th-May 1st. London and Home Counties weekend conference, Margate.

April 29th-May 2nd.—Birmingham & District, N. Midland, N. Western & Yorkshire Branches, joint conference, Great Malvern.

May 4th.—A.A.L., A.G.M., Chaucer House, 6.30 p.m.

May 6th-8th.—South Western Branch weekend conference, Exmouth.

May 10th.—Youth Libraries Section, joint meeting with Juvenile Group of Publishers Assoc., National Book League, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss E. N. Bewick and Miss B. Brazier.

May 11th.—N.W.P. Students' Assoc., Chaucer House, 6.30 p.m. Annual lecture by Stanley Hyland. All past students invited.

May 12th.—U. & R. Section (London Group) & R.S. & I.S. (S.E. Group) joint meeting, L.C.C. County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1 (Room 173) 6 p.m. Miss I. Darlington on "Old London maps".

May 18th. Youth Libraries Section (N.W. Branch), half-day meeting at Blackpool P.L.

May 19th.—Northern Branch, Darlington. Afternoon visits to Whessoe Ltd. and Northern Echo. Evening: H. H. Douglass on "Hospital libraries".



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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1

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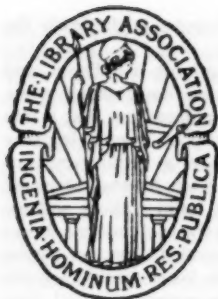
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The Library Association Record

APRIL 1960

Cassiodorus Senator

By RAYMOND IRWIN, M.A., F.L.A.,
Professor of Library Studies, University of London

IN the eighties of the fifth century, three men were born whose influence on our life and culture for the next thousand years and more has been profound. All three came of Italian aristocratic families, and two of them provided the strongest links that bound medieval Christianity with the heritage of pagan Rome. One was Boethius, whose *De consolazione*, even though it is basically a reversion to paganism, had a continuous influence on Western thought down to the Renaissance and beyond. The second was S. Benedict, who transferred his monastic community from Subiaco to Monte Cassino somewhere about A.D. 520. Here after prolonged study of monastic traditions he published the original edition of the famous Rule, c. 526. It spread throughout Christendom with quite remarkable rapidity, being known and quoted within a very few years of this date in Constantinople, Africa and Gaul, as well as in Italy. The third was Cassiodorus, the founder of the Vivarium.

Cassiodorus Senator—this was a personal name, not a title—was born c. 487 at Squillace in Southern Italy, where his family had been distinguished landowners and statesmen for at least three generations. He held all the offices of state from Quaestor to Praetorian Prefect, and served the Ostrogoth emperor Theodoric as his chief adviser, aiming to preserve peace in Italy, and to build a new Italian nation from a blend of Latin and Goth. On the other hand Boethius, with the support of his father-in-law Symmachus, and of scholars such as Priscian in Constantinople, was working not merely for the revival of the true Roman traditions, but for the reconciliation of East and West, Roman and Greek. The two aims were thus in conflict.

Cassiodorus's magnum opus was his *Gothic History*, now surviving only in the epitome made by Jordanes. He began this great work to please the Emperor Theodoric, who died in 526, and by

533 he was being recognized as an authority on the subject. In 535 he made his unsuccessful attempt, in co-operation with Pope Agapetus, to found a Christian university in Rome, on the pattern of the university that had flourished for so long a period in Alexandria, or of that which the Jews had established at Nisibis. The project got no farther than the establishment of a library, which according to one account was destroyed in the capture of Rome in 546, but according to another survived to the end of the century; in the latter event, the library destroyed in 546 might possibly have been the Ulpian library. This was a critical period for academic foundations in the West. Universities were beginning to give way to monasteries as centres of education, just as in a later age at the coming of the friars monastic schools gave place to the new universities. In the sixth century, Monte Cassino and Vivarium succeeded, where the Roman university failed.

During the next few years, c. 538, Cassiodorus gave up his official position as Praetorian Prefect, and turned increasingly to religion. He published his long and detailed *Commentary on the Psalms*, which was at once an encyclopaedia of all knowledge and a demolition of all the heresies from which orthodoxy had suffered; his elaborate treatise on the soul, the *De Anima*; and his collection of state papers and official correspondence known as the *Variae* which reveal his attempts to give to Gothic barbarity the dignity of Roman dress.

In 540, when Ravenna was captured by Belisarius, he went with the defeated general Vitiges to Constantinople. There he seems to have remained for fourteen years, and to have attained a position of influence. He revised his *Gothic History*, modified it to suit the new situation and continued it up to 551, when the Italian exiles in Constantinople were still hoping for a restoration of Romano-Gothic Italy. This hope

was proved vain by the complete extermination of the Ostrogoths under Narses in 555-562. Cassiodorus returned to Squillace about 554, at the age of 67, and devoted the rest of his life to the conversion of his ancestral home into a monastic establishment where he could realize the ideals he had first set before him thirty years earlier in planning a Christian university in Rome.

The relation between Monte Cassino and the Vivarium is obscure. There is nothing to suggest that S. Benedict knew Cassiodorus; he died c. 553-5, probably before the Vivarium was founded. There is internal evidence, however, that Cassiodorus was familiar with S. Benedict's *Rule*; it was indeed widely circulated in Christian circles, and he could hardly escape some knowledge of it. Indeed it would be surprising if he had not himself visited Monte Cassino on his journeys between Ravenna and Squillace. It must be remembered that the *Rule* was not designed merely for the community at Monte Cassino, but was intended to be of universal application within the Church, and to codify and regulate the practice and discipline in religious houses everywhere. S. Benedict did not himself found an order, so much as a code of laws which became the foundation stone of all later Benedictine tradition, and indirectly also of most of the other great orders. The fact that this tradition carries his own name, and that his *Rule* implicitly if not explicitly enjoins the tasks of copying, reading and study as part of the daily labours of the monks, may cause us to forget the contribution of Cassiodorus to the intellectual vitality of the tradition. The original *Rule* was not intended primarily for a community of scholars. The community following the *Rule* was, however, intended to be self-contained, and there was to be everything necessary for the well-being of the community within their enclosure, including "water, mill, garden, bakery and diverse arts" (c. 66) to avoid the need for monks to go wandering outside, this being bad for their souls. The *artes diversae* probably comprised all the crafts connected with the maintenance and decoration of the buildings as well as the work of the scribes. The copying of books is not directly mentioned, any more than the other customary tasks which were generally accepted; but it is implied by the injunctions regarding daily reading and instruction in sacred learning. Dom John Chapman suggests that every monk would probably copy a book for his own use; some would copy books for the use of others; and a few would be expert calligraphers to write in fine uncials for the Church. Others again would teach

the younger monks, and some might teach the *rustici* or their children.

The emphasis in Cassiodorus is different and the interest in the written book much more explicit. E. K. Rand has pointed out that it was Cassiodorus who made both sound learning and the copying of books a definite part of monastic discipline; and it was he who, above all others, saved the ancient Latin authors and the Fathers of the Church for the Middle Ages. It was he, moreover, who provided for the earlier monastic institutions the bibliographical guide that they needed for the organization of their libraries and scriptoria, in the shape of his *Institutiones* and *De Orthographia*, which describe in detail the practical work and the purpose of the community at Vivarium.

Squillace lies on the south-eastern coast of the toe of Italy. Its ancient name was Scylaceum (the *naufragum Scylaceum* of the Aeneid). There is a charming account of the district in George Gissing's *By the Ionian Sea* (Chapman and Hall, 1901). He describes Cassiodorus as "the delightful pedant, the liberal statesmen and patriot, who stands upon the far limit of his old Roman world and bids a sad farewell to its glories", and adds that one winter in Devon he had with him "the two folio volumes of his works, and patiently read the better part of them; it was more fruitful than a study of all the modern historians who have written about his time. I saw the man; caught many a glimpse of his mind and heart, and names which had been to me but symbols in a period of obscure history became things living and recognizable".

The village of Squillace is perched on a hill some miles inland, and a painting of it serves as a frontispiece to Gissing's book. There is a railway station on the coast, but Gissing decided to approach it by road from Catanzaro. On his left was the long flat-topped mountain, "steep, dark and furrowed with innumerable torrent beds", the Mons Moscius of old time which sheltered Cassiodorus's monastery. Along the valley ran the yellow torrent of Pellena which Cassiodorus himself described—"a fishing stream which you should not regard as dangerous because of the size of its waves, or contemptible because of their smallness". Cassiodorus used its water to irrigate his gardens and drive his mills, to furnish his fishponds and to fill the bathing pools that he provided for the sick and infirm. "But these matters" adds Cassiodorus apologetically, "are pleasures of the present, not a future hope of the faithful. The former are transitory; the latter will abide without end. But placed as we

are, let us be brought rather to those desires which make us reign with Christ." Some of the MSS. contain a coloured drawing of the monastery, with its two churches of S. Martin and S. Januarius, and its ponds filled with fish.

Gissing found the valley heaped with blocks of granite, for here the limestone of the Apennines gives way to the granite mass of Aspromonte in the toe of Italy. The vegetation was scanty—little but thin orchards of olive. Has it changed so greatly, he asks, or did its beauty lie in the eyes of Cassiodorus, for whom it always represented home? Squillace itself Gissing found to be a small place, an "unpaved street of squalid hovels", ankle deep in flood water. Its "albergo Nazionale" was a one-story cabin with a row of four or five windows, a filthy kitchen and a dining-room which also served as a bedroom. Here he was confronted by a dish of *peperoni* and a stew of pork and potatoes, which latter defeated him (it smelt abominably and was as tough as leather) and an undrinkable wine. The village impressed Gissing as the most ugly and repulsive collection of houses he had ever seen; the people had a dull, heavy aspect, and it was full of lean, black pigs and gaunt, low-spirited dogs. Scyllaceum must indeed have been a different sort of place from the Squillace of today.

The monastery itself lay under Mons Moscius (now called Coscia di Staletti), and not far from the sea coast. All the land about here had belonged to the family of Cassiodorus for many generations. It was famous for its horses, and Theodoric had obtained his cavalry mounts there. The monastery was in two parts, consisting of coenobites and anchorites. At the foot of the mountain was the headquarters, where Cassiodorus and his *carissimi fratres* lived in community. Far above this was another retreat, Castellense, designed for those monks who, preferring a severer discipline, chose to become anchorites and to enjoy the "*montis Castelli secreta suavia*", the solitary sweetness of Mount Castellum. Today, high on the mountain, stands the church of S. Maria de Vetere, whose name may point to the site of Castellense.

For manual work in farm and garden Cassiodorus depended on a third class of monks, more cold-blooded, as he describes them, quoting the *Georgics*:

Frigidus obstitit circum praecordia sanguis

or as Gissing less kindly calls them, the hopelessly stupid. Cassiodorus comforts these pleasantly with a verse from the Psalms: "Thou shalt eat the labour of thy hand: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee," and with

another verse from the *Georgics*, "Let my delight be the country and the running streams amid the dells." For these weaker brethren he carefully added to the library appropriate textbooks: Gargilius Martialis *De hortis*, Columella *De re rustica* and Aemilianus on agriculture in twelve books.

The coenobitic part of the Vivarium was not without its comforts. Bathing pools were built for the sick. (Heathendom, says Gissing, had been cleaner, but we must not repine.) For them too and for pilgrims special food was provided— young pigeons, delicate fish, fruit and honey. A new kind of automatic lamp was invented which burned brightly without human attendance, the oil presumably being supplied by gravity. Sundials and clepsydras were provided to mark the hours by day and night. These served "to summon the soldiers of Christ, warned by most definite signs . . . to the carrying out of their divine tasks as if by sounding trumpets".

Gissing also explored a grotto by the seashore, said to have been one of the caverns used by Cassiodorus as a fish preserve. The fish ponds were used to trap both sea and river fish, and were constructed so that the fish swam into them unwittingly, not realizing that they were captive, thus providing a constant supply of food for the brothers. He looked also up the valley at the Fontana di Cassiodoris, still so called, and wondered by what strange chance the name had survived. That a vague memory still lingers in the locality was made plain when Gissing mentioned the name to a railwayman, who burst into a roar of laughter. "Cassiodoris! Ha, ha! Cassiodoris! Ha, ha, ha!" On his being pressed to explain his mirth, it transpired that it was solely due to delight at hearing a familiar name. There was simply a hazy idea that he was a man of times gone by. But how did Gissing know anything of him? From books, Gissing replied, including books written by the great man himself over a thousand years ago. This was too much for the incredulous railwayman. "Did I mean to say that books written more than a thousand years ago still existed?" The idea, he implied, was past all reason; and so perhaps it is, like many another true idea.

This then is the situation of the monastery, scriptorium and theological school into which Cassiodorus turned his ancestral home, and where he spent the last years of his long life; and it was here he wrote the works that specially concern us: the *Institutiones divinarum et saecularium litterarum* and the *De orthographia*, which together with the *Etymologiae* of Bishop Isidore

of Seville remained the standard bibliographical encyclopaedias for centuries.

The *Institutiones* is designed as a handbook and guide for the monks at Vivarium. The second part deals with the familiar *artes liberales* of the Romans: grammar, rhetoric, dialectic, arithmetic, music and geometry. The first part is concerned, however, with theology, and with the daily routine of the monks, and gives detailed instructions on the care of manuscripts, their revision and correction, and the production of copies. In the treatise *De Orthographia* Cassiodorus continued his teaching on the accurate copying of manuscripts. The *Institutiones* is in effect a bibliographical survey of the literature of the time, and it must have been used as such by countless succeeding monastic librarians. It is evidently based directly on the Vivarium library, and is thus an eloquent witness of the size and scope of that great library—certainly the richest collection that Christianity had yet produced in the West. For each subject of knowledge discussed, Cassiodorus explains and comments on the books he has provided in the Vivarium library. Some passages refer to the actual location of the books: "for example in *armadio supradicto octavo*, in the eighth press aforementioned I have left a commentary in Greek by John Chrysostom . . ."—exactly, for example, as the *Historia Augusta* in an earlier century located a book "in bibliotheca Ulpia in armario sexto". There seem to have been at least ten presses in all at Vivarium; the Greek MSS. were all in the eighth press.

There is no safe clue as to the size of the Vivarium library or its arrangement, except that the books were kept in presses, and that the eighth press was devoted to works in Greek such as the commentary quoted above. The *Codex Amiatinus*, which was written at Jarrow, shows in its frontispiece the prophet Ezra seated before a press containing the nine volumes of Cassiodorus's revision of S. Jerome's version of the Scriptures, and it has been suggested not only that this was the type of press used at Vivarium, but that in the original *codex grandior*, the figure of Cassiodorus himself appeared, this being changed to Ezra at Jarrow. The illustration is given the place of honour as frontispiece in Clark's *The care of books*, 1901, and is reproduced also by Diring in *The illuminated book*, 1958.

The most fruitful estimate of the size of the library would be one based on the *Index auctorum* in Mynors' edition of the *Institutiones*. This suggests a collection of perhaps 300 works, some of which would, no doubt, be duplicated. It is worth noticing that Dom John Chapman

estimated that if the community at Monte Cassino totalled 150 monks, a stock of three or four thousand books would have been required from the beginning, to provide sufficient reading material for the hours of study required by the *Rule*, which amounted approximately to 1,250 a year. It is, however, unlikely that any library of the period had as many separate codices as this.

Many of the books in the Vivarium were produced in the scriptorium under Cassiodorus' supervision, and elaborate instructions are given on the duties and responsibilities of the copyist. Of all manual tasks, Cassiodorus says, that of the copyist attracts me most. The scribe not only instructs his own mind but spreads the divine precepts far and wide: "Every word of the Lord written by the scribe is a wound inflicted on Satan." Cassiodorus is never at a loss for an etymological argument to drive home his teaching. Scribes are called *librarii*, he says, because they minister to the just scales (*libra*) of the Lord. Elsewhere he derives the word "book", (*liber*) from the adjective meaning "free", because before the invention of papyrus, books were made from bark removed and "freed" from the tree. Cassiodorus notes carefully the textbooks in his library which, together with his own *De orthographia*, will guide the copyist in his grammar, spelling and accentuation; "I have collected", he says, "as many of these works as possible". In addition he has trained a team of skilled bookbinders, so that the outward appearance of his books may be beautiful and worthy of their sacred contents. Cassiodorus would have been familiar with the elaborate work of the copyists and binders in Constantinople, including no doubt, the famous biblical codices in gold or silver ink on purple vellum of which many still survive. There is no hint here of the puritanism which beset the iconoclasts a century later, nor of the need for economy which in an earlier century made it necessary for the Imperial Library at Nicomedia to use coloured vellum and gold leaf only with the express permission of the Emperor.* On this point Cassiodorus quotes the parable of the guest who had no wedding garment, and was bound hand and foot and cast into the outer darkness; the books in his library must be worthily clad. The Vivarium library contained a codex of sample bindings, so that the binders might choose in each case the style they preferred.

It has sometimes been suggested (e.g., by Abbot Butler in *Benedictine Monachism*) that the first

* Thompson, *Ancient libraries*, 1940; Ante-Nicene Fathers 6, 158-161.

members of S. Benedict's community were little more than farm workers and peasants, who at best were semi-literate. There is in fact nothing to support this; and it is plain that the monks at both Monte Cassino and Vivarium were educated men, drawn from middle-class or aristocratic families. The manual labour which, outside service hours, filled their lives, consisted of copying, binding and illuminating as well as perhaps carpentry and stonework. The agricultural and domestic work at both places must have been carried out by slaves and serfs. There were no rural schools in sixth-century Italy, and the serfs would have mostly been illiterate; they were accepted into a "third order" by Cassiodorus, but were not admitted to the full religious life. As in later days, many of the first religious houses were founded by wealthy landowners on their own estates (the houses established by S. Gregory the Great and Paulinus of Nola as well as Cassiodorus and S. Benedict are examples), and it was natural for the menial work to be carried out at first by the staff of the estate. The monks themselves, however, were forbidden to work on the farms, except during harvest and other emergencies. At Vivarium there was certainly an inner circle of highly-educated men who were responsible for the literary output of the monastery: Epiphanius, who translated various theological commentaries and compiled a *Historia ecclesiastica tripartita* which continued Rufinus's edition of Eusebius; Mutianus, who translated S. John Chrysostom's commentaries on the Epistle to the Hebrews and a treatise on music; and Bellator, the almoner at Vivarium, who translated works by Origen and S. Clement of Alexandria and compiled many Biblical commentaries. Still another Vivarium publication was the great translation of Josephus's *Jewish Antiquities* in twenty-two books, which S. Jerome himself said that he could not translate on account of its size.

Special provision was, however, made for less accomplished monks who found reading and study difficult. Abridged versions of certain textbooks were compiled; for example, a work on rhetoric by Fortunatianus in three books was compressed into a short volume "in order to overcome the reader's natural aversion to a complicated treatise and to concentrate on the essentials". The works of Cicero and Quintilian on rhetoric were bound together, so that both were conveniently at hand for the student of that subject: a practice more convenient to the reader than to the librarian. Similarly translations of Aristotle by Cicero, Victorinus and

Boethius were collected in a single codex. Gaps in the collection are sometimes noted; for example, it had not so far been possible to acquire a copy of Martianus Capella, but Cassiodorus hopes that his own *Institutiones* may serve as a humble substitute. One has the impression that the ordinary monk for whom the *Institutiones* was compiled, though fully literate, was not widely educated. Greek was unfamiliar to him, and he did not take easily to difficult or scholarly works. It was doubtless with such readers in mind that Cassiodorus followed the example of S. Jerome in arranging the Scriptures by *cola* and *commata*, that is, in sense lines to make them more easily understood by those who found punctuation difficult. S. Jerome states that he copied the method from MSS. of Cicero and Demosthenes, but actually it already existed in the poetical works of the Old Testament such as the Psalms and Proverbs.

Although pagan learning was well represented on the shelves of the Vivarium, especially in the technical field of the liberal arts, the greater part of the collection must have been theological. The inclusion of pagan texts is justified by the familiar (and quite proper) argument that they are not the least important means of teaching us how to understand the Scriptures. It was perhaps the size of the theological collection which led Cassiodorus to introduce a system of classification symbols in this subject: the earliest, I think, of which we have any detailed knowledge. To enable the student to identify more easily the many patristic commentaries, these are marked in red ink at the beginning of each codex with appropriate symbols. For example, commentaries on the Octateuch are marked OCT; on Kings, REG; on the Psalms, PSL; on Solomon, SAL; on the prophets, PROP; on the Hagiographa AGI; on the Gospels, EV; on the Epistles, AP; on the Acts and the Apocalypse, AAA. There is no direct reference to a catalogue of the library, but in this passage (I.26) the use of the word *indices* ("I have set down relevant symbols as indices for the codices . . .") may suggest a shelf list thus marked.

Cassiodorus died at a great age, c. 583. The fate of the Vivarium and its library is a matter of guesswork. The last that is certainly heard of it is in 598, when the Bishop of Taormina was empowered by the Pope to defend the monks against an encroaching usurper. From that date onwards, Southern Italy became increasingly Greek in character and in fact. Greek influences came chiefly from Syria and Egypt, whence Greek monks fled after the destruction of Antioch and

Alexandria, first to Sicily and then to Calabria. After the extermination of the Ostrogoths in 555-562, the country lay devastated and in ruins, and in 568 the Lombards invaded most of Italy without opposition. They did not, however, reach the toe of Italy, which remained under Byzantine control. Cassiodorus was a Roman, using the Roman liturgy and Latin texts, which must gradually have lost their importance in Squillace. In 732 the Greek rite was prescribed as obligatory in Calabria. From the ninth century Calabria suffered from continual raids by the Saracens, and in 1060 it was plundered by the Normans. In the thirteenth century a monastery dedicated to S. Gregory Thaumaturgos was established at Squillace.

The monastery of Bobbio, near Pavia, was founded in 612, thirty years after Cassiodorus' death. It has been suggested without any good evidence that the pre-Columban books in the Bobbio library may have been brought from Vivarium, this being the only likely source for them in Italy other than the Papal library (destroyed in the time of Pope Agapetus), and the private collections of the Abbot Eugippius and the family of the Anicii, to which the nun Proba (whom Cassiodorus claimed as a relative) belonged. The descriptions given by Cassiodorus of his books are not sufficiently exact, however, to enable any of them to be identified with the books at Bobbio, and the theory of their transfer is not accepted today. All that we can say is that the *Institutiones* may well have served the librarians at Bobbio and elsewhere as a bibliographical guide.

There is some support also for the belief that certain of the Vivarium texts served as archetypes for copies made in the Carolingian period. Amongst these was, of course, the Codex Amiatinus, already mentioned. This was written at Jarrow under Abbot Ceolfrid (642-716). Bede tells of the many improvements which Ceolfrid made to the twin monasteries of Jarrow and Wearmouth, or rather (as he says) to the single monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul in its two separate places. Amongst these was the development of the library which Abbot Benedict had founded; under Ceolfrid's zealous care it was doubled in extent. The accessions included the three Pandects of a new translation which he had brought from Rome, that is, St. Jerome's Vulgate. Two of these were given to the two monasteries. The third was intended as a gift for the Pope, and in his old age Ceolfrid, having resigned his abbacy, set out for Rome with this gift, but his journey was never completed. He

died soon after reaching the Lingones (Langres) on 25th September, 716, and was buried there in the church of the three twin martyrs. The anonymous life of Ceolfrid states that some of his companions travelled on to Rome and delivered his gifts, including the Codex, to the Pope. There is, of course, no trace of the two copies at Jarrow, but the one delivered in Rome was the Codex Amiatinus. This came somehow into the possession of the Abbey of San Salvatore on Mount Amiata in Tuscany; and when this house was suppressed, its books were transferred to the Laurentian Library, where comparatively recently it was found that this great manuscript was not only English, but that it bore Ceolfrid's partly-erased name. It is more than likely that this Codex, which was one of the main sources of the revision of the Vulgate in 1590, was copied directly from the *codex grandior* which was edited by Cassiodorus from St. Jerome's Vulgate.

Whatever the fate of the books themselves, the *Institutiones* survived as a bibliographical encyclopaedia throughout the Middle Ages. In particular, Book II on Secular Letters became a standard school textbook, along with Martianus Capella, Boethius, Priscian and Donatus, and many of the Vivarium publications appear frequently in medieval catalogues. It may be fairly said that the libraries of the Benedictine houses owed even more to Cassiodorus than to the precepts of their own founder saint.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The standard edition of the *Institutiones* is by Professor Mynors (Oxford, 1937). There is a translation by L. W. Jones, *Introduction to divine and human readings* (Columbia University Press, 1946). Both have important introductions and the Index auctorum in Mynors gives a useful idea of the scope of the Vivarium library. See also van de Vyver, *Cassiodore et son oeuvre*, in *Speculum*, 1931 VI pp. 244-292, and *Les Institutiones de Cassiodore et sa fondation à Vivarium*, in *Revue bénédictine*, 1941, LXIII, pp. 59-88; and E. K. Rand, *The new Cassiodorus in Speculum*, 1938, XIII, pp. 433-447; also Professor Momigliano, *Cassiodorus and Italian culture of his time*, in *Proc. of the British Academy*, XLI (Italian Lecture, 1955). The latter has a very full bibliography. George Gissing's *By the Ionian sea*, 1901, should not, of course, be overlooked. For S. Benedict, see especially Dom John Chapman, *S. Benedict and the 6th century*, 1929.

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

JOINT CONFERENCE AT MONTREAL, 18TH TO 24TH JUNE, 1960

Members proposing to attend the joint conference of the American and Canadian Library Associations can obtain conference registration forms on application to the Secretary of the Library Association at Chaucer House.

The Ofor Bunyan Books at Elstow*

By RICHARD OFFOR, B.A., Ph.D., F.L.A., *Emeritus Librarian of the University of Leeds and Fellow of University College, London*

I. GEORGE OFFOR

GEORGE OFFOR (1787-1864), my grandfather, is remembered especially at Bedford as, perhaps, the most scrupulous editor John Bunyan has ever had, particularly in the edition of his works.¹ He was also famous as a collector of English Bibles, and, above all, of books by and about Bunyan. The former collection was said at the time to be "one of the completest in the kingdom", and the latter "unique".² The British Museum³ acquired many editions of the Bible as well as Bunyan editions containing notes by him. As Bunyan published some sixty separate treatises—one or two are spurious—and as many of them ran through numerous editions, perhaps with emendations, the task of collecting and appraising them was a herculean one.

Grandfather was a typical nonconformist of his age. After all, he was 40 before the Test and Corporation Acts were repealed and he could exercise the rights of citizenship and become a Justice of the Peace: his prejudice against the Established Church was unrestrained. The *D.N.B.* contributor² and even the kindly Bunyan biographer and minister of Bunyan Meeting, John Brown,⁴ condemned his platitudinous notes and his bigotry.

But, when all this may be admitted, a recent edition of the *Pilgrim's progress*, with an admirable bibliography,⁵ speaks of George Offor's "valiant work" and states (p. xiii) "Among the editors and students of Bunyan, two men tower far above their fellows: the first of these was George Offor." Present-day literary criticism places the highest emphasis on textual accuracy. Bunyan's immense output and variations in successive editions are enough to baffle the most exacting editor. A French critic⁶ speaks of Offor as "always conscientious". It was typical of Charles Kingsley that, in a letter written from him to my grandfather, in my possession, Kingsley dismissed scornfully Offor's protest against the use of *silver* instead of *golden* slippers.⁷ Any tampering with an accepted text was sacrilegious.

I shall not dwell on the details of my grandfather's life.² The family was of Mendip origin.

* With an account of Elstow Moot Hall by Miss Joyce Godber, M.A., F.S.A., County Archivist of Bedfordshire.

I have a deed about property at Axbridge near Cheddar, where the vicar showed me parish registers full of the name Offor or Offer. Professor R. W. Chambers linked it with Offa. His father and he had a bookselling and publishing business on Tower Hill, whence they issued catalogues. The son retired early to Grove Street, now Lauriston Road, Hackney, on a competence: he taught himself Hebrew, Latin and Greek, and became an authority on English black letter theological literature. He also published *inter alia* a reprint of Tyndale's New Testament⁸ and of Increase Mather's *Providences of New England*. He produced in 1814 an *Easy introduction to reading the Hebrew language*, and I have a *Hebrew Psalter*, published by John Offor in 1823. But, of course, John Bunyan was the hero of his life. In addition to the works, a separate edition of the *Pilgrim's progress* is noteworthy.⁹ I proceed to narrate the disastrous destruction of most of his books after his death.

II. THE ILL-FATED LIBRARY

George Offor died in 1864. His library catalogue—the entries are not always accurate—was prepared with a view to auction by Messrs. Sotheby from 27th June, 1865, for 11 days,¹⁰ but after the first two days, which included many Bibles,¹¹ it was largely destroyed or irretrievably damaged by fire. The charred and defective fragments were bought by Alfred Stevens, American bookseller, for £300. I possess two copies of Sotheby's catalogue. Subsequently there were sales by Puttick and Simpson on behalf of Stevens. In 1866 there appears to have been a kind of remnant sale at Sotheby's, but the collection as an entity had all but vanished.¹¹ The books thus sold "were not necessarily all, or any, of the Bunyan books which were to have been disposed of on the fifth and sixth days of the sale".¹⁰ The British Museum had made purchases. At New York Public Library and in the Huntington Library at Los Angeles I saw documents in Grandfather's handwriting and procured photostats of them.

Many years later these damaged volumes mostly passed into the possession of Sir Leicester Harmsworth, at the auction of whose Bunyan items, 1947, I purchased a few G.O. volumes,

nearly all in a poor condition. I should preface this action of mine by saying that when I became Librarian of the University of Leeds and had been given or left by relations of the last generation sundry copies of my grandfather's various editions of Bunyan, as well as some of his slighter and more controversial treatises heavily weighted by religious prejudice,¹² I commenced more systematically to buttress this small nucleus by purchasing editions, noted as I perused second-hand catalogues on behalf of special sections of the University Library.¹³ I conceived the idea of leaving behind me some kind of memorial to George Offor. This included a few items other than books: his armchair, similar to, but less battered than that in Bunyan Meeting, illustrated by Dr. Brown,⁴ his bust, his engraved portrait, and a view of the house which held the library. I acquired a few early editions of the seventeenth century, one or two of which George Offor did not possess, very many more of the eighteenth century up to 1830 and a certain number of later editions. Before the last war, Bunyan volumes occurred more frequently and at much more moderate prices than they do now.

The whole of this relatively modest collection has been bequeathed to the Bedfordshire County Council for preservation as far as possible in the Moot Hall at Elstow, described below. As many as practicable of the damaged volumes have been restored and rebound, or cased, by Mr. A. F. Cirket on the staff of the County Record Office at Bedford; this remarkable work has prompted to no small extent, my connection with the development that follows.

III. THE GIFT BY THE BRITISH MUSEUM

I have recounted the editorial and the bibliographical achievements of George Offor, and what appeared to be the well-nigh complete annihilation of his fine Bunyan library. I was left as the last of the family whose career and outlook might fit him to attempt some retrieval.

This effort, with the friendly encouragement of the Chairman of Bedfordshire County Council, Sir Frederick Mander, J.P., has been crowned by the co-operation of the Records Committee under its Chairman—the present Chairman is Councillor R. B. Hobourn, and, most substantially, by the constant help of my friend, Miss Joyce Godber. Last December the enterprise was given a fitting consummation by a timely and generous gift from the Trustees of the British Museum.

When in 1947 Sir Leicester Harmsworth's Bunyan books and pamphlets were sold, I was at Leeds, and had to commission a relative to

attend the sale. None of us in my acquaintance was aware of the extensive acquisitions made at the sale by the Museum, although we knew, of course, of the incomparable collection of books by and about John Bunyan which the Museum possessed.

In October last, 1959, correspondence took place between a Mr. J. L. Wood of the Department of Printed Books with my successor at Leeds, Mr. Page, enquiring about the ultimate object I had in my Bunyan enterprise, which led to Mr. Page kindly suggesting direct approach to me. Friendly letters from Mr. R. A. Wilson, Principal Keeper, thus came to me, then working in Bloomsbury under the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas.

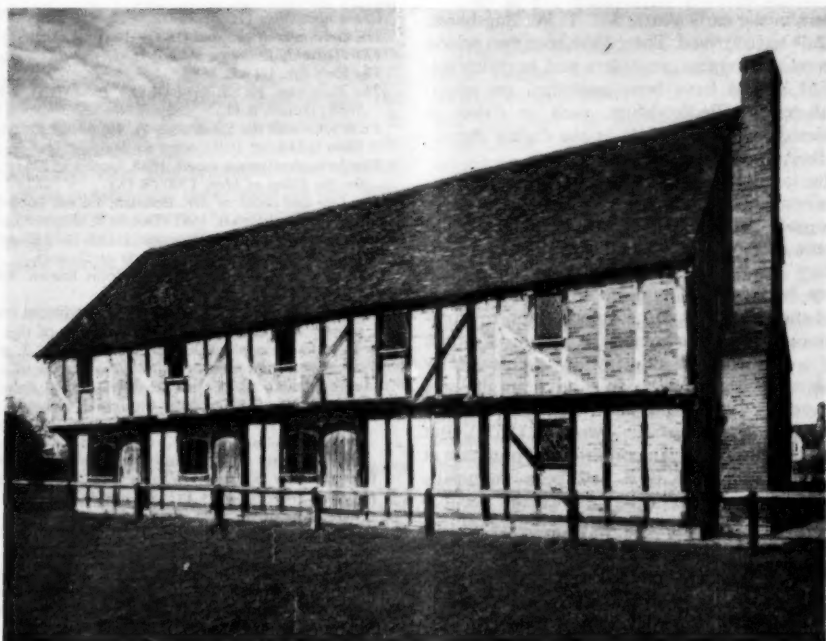
As a result of the information given, a most gratifying offer was made by the Trustees in December, 1959, to the Bedfordshire County Council for preservation in Elstow Moot Hall of some 300 volumes of which the British Museum already possessed other copies and the majority of which were probably in George Offor's library.

Bedford will now have three treasure-houses of Bunyan bibliography: BUNYAN MEETING, where Dr. Brown first built up a collection of foreign editions which is being extended by Mr. H. G. Tibbutt, F.R.Hist.S.; BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, to which my good friend Mr. F. Mott Harrison^{2,10} bequeathed his excellent collection; and now ELSTOW.

Mr. Mott Harrison will always have a high place for his painstaking bibliographies of Bunyan, but Mr. Tibbutt's activities call for record not only for his topographical and historical work on the great first Minister of Bunyan Meeting, the Congregational Church of which he is a prominent member, but for his zeal in urging the authorities to install appropriate fittings. Above all, for us he has encouraged a line of development in the library which appeals greatly to me.

I have made a close study of translations from English into French up to 1800; as one result the two earliest translations of *Pilgrim's progress* are in the Brotherton Library at Leeds, but I could do nothing extensive for my own collection due to lack of time and accommodation. I possess, however, 52 translations in 30 languages, and I have the first Dutch translation of *Pilgrim's progress*, 1682, *Holy war*, 1685, and *Mr. Badman*, 1683-1702; also translations printed at Rarotonga in 1846 and in Tamil in S. India, 1793.

In the last few weeks Mr. Tibbutt has increased the translated editions at Bunyan Meeting from 170 to 225 in 100 different languages, a number



Elstow Moot Hall

considerably larger and more representative than those at the British Museum. He has placed on exhibition this year at Bedford some fine editions in the Scandinavian languages.¹⁴

IV. ELSTOW MOOT HALL

In Elstow, John Bunyan was born and spent his early years. On the village green he played the game of cat and listened to the bells of the once magnificent and still fascinating Priory Church, until, as he tells us in *Grace abounding*, God called him to higher thoughts. And on the green stands the Moot Hall, a late medieval half-timbered market-house, with a bay added in the seventeenth century, when the whole was brick-nogged. Much used in the great days of Elstow fair (the fair was originally granted to Elstow Abbey by Henry I), and later for the manor court, as a place of worship, and a school, it fell into disuse within the last 70 years and also into disrepair. Its restoration by Bedfordshire County Council in 1951, after it had been given to them by Major Simon Whitbread, Lord Lieutenant, was one of the permanent achievements of the Festival of Britain.

The 7,000 visitors who came to see it during 1951 encouraged the Council to establish it as a seventeenth-century study centre. For the large upper room some good pieces of period furniture, including a large glass-fronted bookcase, were acquired, while the ground-floor room was equipped with showcases for smaller exhibits. Of the two small rooms, one—the so-called “Bunyan Room”—was more simply furnished as the living-room of a modest family of Bunyan’s time; the other as an office for the Custodian.

The venture has prospered. Each year, with the help of loans from institutions and individuals, an exhibition is arranged on some aspect of seventeenth-century life. “The Seventeenth-Century Child”, “The Civil War”, “Cromwell” are recent examples. Educational parties are free, but other visitors pay 6d., and from these sixpences about £100 received annually enables additions to be made to the permanent collection, for instance, a side-table, an embroidered casket, a four-poster bed. Gifts—some of them rare and beautiful, such as a Lambeth Delft charger with a royal portrait, one of many benefactions from the Honorary Adviser who supervised museum

matters in the early years, Mr. T. W. Bagshawe, F.S.A.—have arrived. There have been two period concerts with voices, recorders and harpsichord. Several leaflets have been published on seventeenth-century Bedfordshire, such as *Crime in Bedfordshire, 1660-88*, *Life in the Palace Beautiful, Bedfordshire and the Protectorate*.

The large bookcase (with a 54 ft. shelf-run) remained nearly empty. While it was never envisaged that the Moot Hall should or could become a library, yet to illustrate seventeenth-century life and ignore books—to display an empty bookcase as a piece of furniture—was unsatisfactory. Nor did it seem right to commemorate in his birthplace the author of about sixty works without showing any. A few early editions began to come in—the first gift was received in 1951 from the Rev. Potto Hicks: *Light for them that sit in Darkness* (1675). But to make a large Bunyan collection by purchase at this late date, even if it had been financially possible, was impracticable. Hence the peculiar appositeness of the concentration here of my own collection and of the extensive presentation by the British Museum.

V. DETAILS OF SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY EDITIONS

There is only space here for specific record of *seventeenth-century editions*: that is the period on which the exhibitions at Elstow have been concentrated; but a few general facts can be stated. There are multiple copies of some editions in the Museum's gift, e.g., *The barren fig tree*, 3 copies of 1692, 2 of 1709, 4 of 1728, 2 of 1762, 3 of 1793. Dr. Esdaile, of the Museum, used to warn us of the "duplication of duplicates", owing to the variations between copies of the same issue. The date in round brackets in the following list of seventeenth-century issues is that of the first edition. The dates that follow are those of the Museum gift, with "R.O." attached to copies in my collection.

Collected works: Doe's ed. 1691-2, Vol. I (all then published) (R.O.).

The Barren fig tree (1682), 1692, 1698.

Come and welcome to Jesus Christ (1678), 1684 (also R.O. from G.O.), 1686, 1688, 1691, 1694 (R.O.), 1700.

Differences in judgment about water baptism no bar to Communion, 1st ed. 1673 (R.O.).

Discourse upon the pharisee and the publican, 1st ed. 1685 (R.O.).

Doctrine of the law and grace unfolded, 1st ed. 1659 (2 fragmentary G.O. copies in R.O.).

A Few Sighs from hell (1658), 1666, 1672, 1674, 1686, 1692 (1666, 1672, 1686 charred).

Grace abounding (1666), 1688.

The Greatness of the soul (1683), 1691 (R.O.).

The Heavenly footman, 1st ed. 1698.

The Holy life, 1st ed., 1684.

The Holy war, 1st ed. 1682 (R.O.), 1684 (R.O. 2 cop.), 1685 (Dutch, R.O.).

I will pray with the Spirit (166-?), 4th ed. (R.O. charred from G.O.).

The Jerusalem sinner saved, 1688, issued as *Good News for the Vilest of Men*, 1700 (R.O.).

The Life and death of Mr. Badman, 1st ed. 1680 (R.O. and G.O., charred), 1683 (Dutch, R.O.), 1696.

Light for them that sit in darkness, 1st ed. 1675 (charred), 1685 (R.O. and another already at Elstow).

One thing is needful (?1675: see John Brown, note 4, p. 166), 1700? (R.O.).

Pilgrim's progress, Part 1 (1678). R.O.s editions contain mostly very charred or defective copies of this time.

The joint or separate issues of Parts 1 and 2, as well as of the spurious Part 3, make a census of copies complicated. 1678, 2nd ed. (R.O., very defective), 1681 (6th ed., R.O., defective), 1681 (7th ed., R.O., defective), 1693 (B.M., also R.O. 1693 wanting only pp. 121-4, not G.O.). At least 2 copies are so damaged that no date can be easily assigned to them.

For all early editions, Wharey⁵ must be consulted. *Pilgrim's progress*, Part 2 (1682), 1684, 1686 (R.O. very defective), 1690, 1693 (R.O. defective).

Pilgrim's progress, Part 3 (1693, supposititious), 1695. *The Resurrection of the dead*, 1655? 1st ed. (R.O. from G.O., charred).

Sighs from hell: see *A Few sighs from Hell*.

Solomon's temple spiritualized, 1688 (R.O. 1st ed., a few pp. wtg. & replaced from a later ed.), 1698 (B.M. & R.O.).

The Water of life, 1688, 1st ed. (R.O.).

None of the supposititious works, except *Pilgrim's progress*, Part 3, are included, and in any case all our copies of such are post-seventeenth century.

A STATISTICAL NOTE

John Bunyan's works, principally the *Pilgrim's progress*, for a long time, shared the honour with the Bible of being a bedside volume. In my own books, there are 93 separate editions of Bunyan's works, including supposititious works. I have scarcely any duplicate volumes, but I have obtained a number of translations into other languages. A goodly number of copies have ill-written and ill-spelt MS. inscriptions. Clearly the devout folk who inserted them could only write with difficulty, "faith Ledger her book bouet (?bought) May the (illegible) 1731", is in *Pilgrim's progress*, 1727. A succession of Lainsons inscribe their names in a 1708 edition "I write my Name to betray a theaf that" (three attempts to write steal?).

The British Museum gift has 128 eighteenth-century editions with a similar range, but additional copies increase this figure to 237. As for total figures, the British Museum gift numbers some 304 volumes. R.O.'s catalogue has 382

entries, but in addition there are 34 George Offor volumes including a few books of cognate interest. Thus there will be some 700 volumes and unbound pamphlets in all.

One fell morning nearly a century ago, this famous Bunyan collection was reduced to apparently complete ruin, but now to one who grieved sadly over this presumed total destruction of an outstanding monument of our devotional literature recent happenings seem to be, in the words of the title-page of one of John Bunyan's books, a "Resurrection of the Dead".

NOTES

- ¹ *The whole works of John Bunyan accurately reprinted from the author's own editions, with editorial prefaces, notes, and life of Bunyan*, by George Offor, Esq., 3 vol. imp. 8", Glasgow, Blackie, 1854. Another edition, 1862-3, 6 vol.
- ² Article in *Dictionary of National Biography*.
- ³ *John Bunyan, an excerpt from the General Catalogue of the British Museum*, 4, 1939.
- ⁴ John Brown, *John Bunyan (1628-88), his life, times and work*, revised by F. Mott Harrison, 1928.
- ⁵ Edited by James Blanton Wharey (An American), Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1928. New edition by Roger Sharrock, M.A. 1960.
- ⁶ Henri Talon, *John Bunyan, the man and his works*, English translation, London, Rockliff, 1952, p. 178.
- ⁷ Bunyan's *Pilgrim's progress*, with illustrations by C. Bennett and a preface by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, 1860.
- ⁸ *The New Testament . . . published in 1526, being the first translation from Greek into English . . . by William Tyndale*, reprinted verbatim by George Offor, London, Begster, 1836.
- ⁹ *The Pilgrim's progress . . . with notices of all the subsequent additions and alterations made by the author*, edited by George Offor, London, Hanserd Knollys Society, 1847.
- ¹⁰ F. Mott Harrison, *A bibliography of the works of John Bunyan* (Supplement to the Bibliographical Society's Transactions, No. 6), 1932. This most exhaustive survey by my old friend, Chairman of the Hove Public Library Committee (d. 1945), has as appendix an account of the fire and a list of some of the damaged items, which is not complete, for I myself have some unscorched victims not mentioned.
- ¹¹ I possess Erasmus, *Exhortation to the diligent studye of of Scripture*, Marburg, 1529, which was presumably among the Bibles, as it contains the text of 1 Corinthians, chapter 7. It has a lengthy MS. comment in the beginning signed "George Offor", denouncing celibacy, but then he had two wives and thirteen children!
- ¹² His sermon on the death of his first wife in 1823 is typical of the terrifying language of the time.
- ¹³ Conspicuously the assemblage of books before 1800 on Anglo-French relations, which has become well known, and includes early translations of Bunyan.
- ¹⁴ Mr. Tibbutt would welcome information about translations of rare dates or of unusual languages.

N.B.L. Touring Exhibitions

Ever since its formation in 1944, the National Book League has been sending exhibitions of current books to schools, libraries and bookshops, and this year the number of exhibitions has grown to a record sixty. They are known and valued by readers, and particularly by teachers, from Scotland to Jersey and west to Ireland.

The aim of the exhibitions is to show teachers and the general public the range of books available; to give them an opportunity to handle and study the books (a fortnight is allowed for each display); and to stimulate their interest and discrimination in the selection of the right books for their own purposes.

The exhibitions range in size from 50 to 2,500 books, and contain in all 15,000 books. Carefully chosen by experts, they are collections of current books (excluding text-books) on a wide variety of subjects and for all age groups.

The exhibitions travel from one exhibitor to the next by public transport. The hiring charges vary from £1 to £5, according to the size of the exhibition. The exceptionally large School Library Exhibition travels in its own specially devised book-cases and with display stands, and the hiring charge is £30. All exhibitors are asked to bear the cost of onward carriage.

Librarians find these exhibitions especially useful. Often they have most or all of the books in an exhibition in their own stock, but by taking from the League the exhibition ready for display, they save their staff the work of selection, and also avoid the possibility of having to withdraw books from their lending stock during the period of the display. All books in the League's exhibitions are shown in their dust-jackets. For further information please ring Hyde Park 9001/5 (Margot Schutt).

JOINT CONFERENCE

The 32nd Joint Annual Conference of the Birmingham and District, N. Midland, N. Western and Yorkshire Branches of the L.A. will be held from 29th April-2nd May, 1960, at The Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern, Worcestershire. Papers will include: The needs of the service (E. I. Baker, H.M.I.); The schools: what has, what is and what should be done (J. C. Harrison); The role of in-service training (J. P. Wells); and, What the L.A. is doing (Miss L. V. Paulin). Details and registration forms available from D. Wright, F.L.A., Reference Library, Birmingham, 1.

The Library Association

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference will be held at Scarborough from 12th-16th September. General sessions and the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Spa Grand Hall, the Annual Lecture in the Queen Street Central Hall, and Section meetings in the Spa Theatre and Ballroom. The Trade Exhibition will be in the Spa Green Lounge and Cafe.

The official invitation will be issued to all members with the May RECORD.

L.A. Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals for 1959

We are pleased to announce that the L.A. Carnegie Medal for 1959 has been awarded to Miss Rosemary Sutcliff for *The lantern bearers* (O.U.P.).

Books commended for 1959 were: Harnett (C.) *The load of Unicorn* (Methuen), Norton (M.) *The borrowers afloat* (Dent), Sharp (M.) *The rescuers* (Collins), Verney (J.) *Friday's tunnel* (Collins), Young (A.) *Quiet as moss* (Hart-Davis).

The Kate Greenaway Medal has been awarded to Mr. William Stobbs for his illustrations in *Kashanka* (O.U.P.) and in *A bundle of ballads* (O.U.P.).

The following were commended: Ardizzone (E.) *Titus in trouble*, and Rose (G.) *Wuffles goes to town* (Faber).

Notes on Out-of-Print Books

Originally I made reference to the xerographic printing services of University Microfilms in these Notes, in September, 1958. Despite the obvious advantages of a process of printing in editions of one, experience has proved that the costs are relatively high due to the processes involved. For many general works unlikely to be reprinted in conventional editions, the future of xerographic printing depends on a drastic reduction of costs. As forecast in this column in October, 1959, the possibilities of the offset process have been investigated on behalf of London and Home Counties Branch, during discussions with Mrs. West of University Microfilms and Mr. Davey, recently-appointed Director of South-Eastern Regional Library System.

Using an example of a book of 300 pages 8 in. \times 6½ in. maximum, the cost of a single xerocopy would be £9 10s., or approximately 7d. per page for the first copy with reduction to 5½d. for subsequent copies. The same book done in quantity by offset would be approximately £4 1s. 3d. per copy or 3½d. per page for a

minimum of 50 copies. For 100 copies, the price would drop to £2 16s. 3d. per copy, or approximately 2½d. per page. The price includes paper binding only. For an edition of less than 50 copies, the price would naturally rise accordingly.

The offset process is not covered under existing copyright agreements with publishers, but University Microfilms would be prepared to negotiate any titles required. The above charges include payment of royalties.

The maximum size for any book produced by offset is 8 in. \times 6½ in. This is governed by the size of the paper mat. Books exceeding this size can be reduced photographically but whether this will give a satisfactory result naturally depends on the amount of reduction necessary and the size of the original type. Only limited reduction can be achieved satisfactorily. Otherwise, the offset process is indistinguishable from xerography and printing is similarly done on a continuous roll of paper so that a "page" comprises a fold of paper which is not guillotined. There is the same difficulty in reproducing half-tone plates satisfactorily.

Offset xerography is obviously a practical possibility for "runs" of general books, having some or all of the following characteristics:

1. Size not exceeding, or materially exceeding, 8 in. \times 6½ in.
2. Not likely to be reprinted in conventional editions.
3. Very difficult or impossible to obtain in the second-hand market and only at high prices.
4. Limited numbers of copies remaining in inter-loan agencies, whether non fiction or fiction.

Librarians will not need reminding that the shorter the pagination, the lower the costs will be.

With reference to item 4, and particularly for non-fiction, it is easy to foresee that if any title is very scarce throughout the country, it only needs five libraries in each of the ten Regions to place an order so that local supplies could be effectively improved to national advantage. It is possible to visualize such a course of action becoming a permanent part of the agenda of meetings of the National Committee.

This seems a convenient opportunity to invite librarians, particularly those working on book order and stock editing, to send to me their suggestions for two categories of standard and classic O.P. books likely to be required by several libraries:

1. Titles suitable for negotiation for conventional reprinting.

2. Titles with limited sales-value more suitable for offset xerography.

As far as category 1 is concerned, librarians write to me occasionally, but in view of the increasing approaches being made by publishers for lists of books from which to choose for reprinting, it appears timely to invite the suggestions of all librarians. I have hesitated to do this before in view of the danger of being completely submerged by numerous lists! The information is now required, however, and, no doubt, a technique can be evolved to meet the situation. One useful possibility is that the continuous confirmation of certain titles on numerous lists will be good evidence to convince publishers. It will be assumed that every librarian will be prepared to buy at least one copy of any title listed. It would be useful to know also when more than one copy would be bought. It would greatly assist the editing if lists could be set out in two categories as noted above, on foolscap, double-spaced and single-sided.

As far as "ordinary" xerographic copies are concerned, I have received from University Microfilms Ltd., a useful list of O.P. books now available in xerocopies. These include:

- Atkins, J. The navy surgeon, 1734. £4 10s. 0d.
 Barnes, W. Early England and Saxon English, 1869. £5 3s. 6d.
 Black, J. B. The art of history, 1926. £2 8s. 6d.
 Chambers, Sir E. K. Arthur of Britain, 1927. £4 10s. 0d.
 Dent, E. J. Foundations of English opera, 1928. £3 10s. 0d.
 Gurney, R. W. Elementary quantum mechanics, 1934. £2 6s. 9d.
 Ingram, D. Narrative of the loss of the Royal George, 1840. £1 10s. 0d.
 Kininmonth, C. Rome alive, 1951. £5.
 Lee, C. E. Narrow gauge railways in N. Wales, 1954. £3 10s. 0d.
 McNeice, L. Modern poetry, 1938. £2 16s. 9d.
 Miller, W. H. Treatise on crystallography, 1839. £2 10s. 0d.
 Nunn, British sources of photographers and pictures, 1952. £3 10s. 0d.
 Polynov, B. B. The cycle of weathering. Trans. from the Russian, 1937. £3 6s. 3d.
 Robinson, G. W. A survey of the soils and agriculture of Shropshire, 1913. £2.
 Somerby, H. G. A record of the Blakes of Somersetshire, 1881. £2.
 Wight, M. Power politics, 1946. £1 10s. 0d.
 Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Index to Volumes 1-3 Early Yorkshire charters. £6 10s. 0d.

and numerous Government publications of various dates and prices.

Returning to more conventional reprinting, following an enquiry by the Bodley Head regarding the possibilities of successfully re-issuing books by Winston Graham, *Demelza* and *Ross*

Poldark are expected to be published about June, 1960, at 16s. *Ross Poldark* incidentally is *The renegade* under a new title which the author prefers. *Venture once more* may follow later.

There is, I believe, a heavy demand for Edna Ferber's *Showboat*. Heinemann are not planning to reprint this at present, but a paperback edition is available from Four Square Books at 3s. 6d.

Another paperback worth noting is M. G. Lewis's *The Monk*, Grove/Calder, 17s. 6d.

NORMAN TOMLINSON

Municipal Library Notes

"The Reference Library—Standing Room Only!" is the caption beneath the photograph of a crowded reference library on the cover of the annual report for 1958-59 of LEICESTER City Libraries. The student population at universities and colleges has increased substantially since the last war and the larger reference libraries throughout the country have found it difficult to provide accommodation, but now that the programme for a really considerable increase in their numbers is under way, the problem is becoming acute. It is a problem which is occasionally complicated by the fact that some university and college libraries close early in the evening. But whatever the causes, the result far too often is that students must queue for a seat in the Reference Library and unhappily many members of the public who wish to make full use of the library's book resources are unable to do so.

As with so many of our problems the solution is the simple one of finding the money for larger reference libraries or extensions to existing reference libraries in those centres with large student populations. Mr. Gilbert Turner of Richmond makes the point about inadequate central library buildings with considerable force in his report for the year 1958-59:

"As a whole the building resembles a film set. The three public departments, of which two are hopelessly inadequate in size, are, nevertheless, cheerful in appearance and inviting to the prospective reader. Go behind the film set and you discover an administration department on several floors and half floors which could scarcely be more inconvenient than it is, and a series of book-stores, overcrowded, damp and subject to periodical outbreaks of dry rot—a continual drain on maintenance expenditure."

As a people we show an extraordinary talent for pressing through the obviously essential without considering the implications. Our new housing estates tend to be deserts of houses without such essentials for living as public libraries. Our

cities and towns are fortunately provided with delightful schools and colleges but the amenities that are necessary if the young people attending these schools and colleges are to benefit fully from their education are often missing or inadequate.

A report from BEDFORD is a striking example of what a relatively small authority can do. The report itself is nicely designed and well printed on a paper that is a pleasure to handle. It is, moreover, well written, being pitched at the right level and expressed with such vitality that it can be read by the most hardened reviewer without yawning. The population of Bedford is 59,480 and the expenditure on books in 1958-59 was £6,203.

The city of GLOUCESTER has a population of 68,400 and, although the annual report is not as outstanding as that of Bedford, it is an interesting record of a year of progress and achievement. Gloucester has an impressive collection of deeds, wills and diocesan records, but the work on archives has not apparently resulted in any diminution of effort in the more conventional field of library activities—the Central Lending Library issued 488,076 books in the year.

COULSDON AND PURLEY's annual report has some interesting details on book losses and stock records. It was found that 3,071 books were missing after the stocktaking in 1958 and this out of a total stock of 90,000. The figures show, however, that as there had been no stocktaking since 1950, this only represents loss of 0.427 per cent per annum and this is a much more encouraging situation—one, in fact, that few libraries could rival.

There is invariably a good deal of meat in LEEDS' annual report. It is drearily printed but the enthusiasm and well-informed librarianship that inspire both the general administration and the various sections make it an invaluable record for any librarian. Take the section dealing with the Music Library and Gramophone Record Library, for example. Here is an impressive record of work done but, added to it, are paragraphs giving the average cost of records bought and the reason for the variations in cost; and, more valuable perhaps, the average issue life of discarded records according to the type of music recorded: chamber music 12.13, instrumental 31.00, symphonies 44.97—to give just three examples.

Some excellently produced catalogues, book-lists and guides to book exhibitions have been issued. BIRMINGHAM celebrated the 250th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Johnson with an exhibition of books, manuscripts, views and

portraits and a nicely-printed catalogue with an illustrated cover. HULL has issued a useful bibliography to mark the bicentenary of the birth of William Wilberforce—one of Hull's most distinguished citizens. It is well-presented, carefully indexed and is issued as "a small tribute to a great man who dedicated his life to serve humanity".

The thought and application that goes into the production of any one book-list is fairly considerable and the enthusiasm and real sense of purpose shown by many of the medium-sized authorities in producing a series of such lists puts both their public and the library profession as a whole in their debt. BURNLEY have lists on *The foreman* and *Mechanical engineering*. COVENTRY give us three local history pamphlets on *Miracle plays*, *Lady Godiva*, and *Thomas Stevens* and his silk ribbon pictures. CHELMSFORD have departed from the class list to produce a thoughtfully compiled and well-duplicated list on *Sex, marriage, parenthood*, but surely there are a few unprogressive citizens in Chelmsford who will feel that a list on such a subject should not also carry quite prominently on the front cover "J means a Children's Library Book".

Some reports are a pleasure to see, showing a sense of taste and an originality of design that win support before the contents are studied: BRADFORD with a reversed panel of blue on grey using Albertus; HENDON shows the impact of the disciplined Perpetua on a yellow cover paper and HORNSEY is in quarto, printed in olive green on a good laid white cover paper with a deckle edge.

Mr. J. G. O'Leary has an enthusiasm and a belief in librarianship that have served the profession well. His latest report, *Thirty years of libraries in Dagenham 1929-1959*, could be read by all librarians with profit but for younger librarians who are not sure where they are going this should be compulsory reading.

E. A. CLOUGH

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND ARCHIVES

Three public lectures will be delivered by Graham Pollard on "Commentaries on the Physical Development of Books".

Thursday, 5th May—"Binding".

Thursday, 12th May—"Vellum and Paper".

Thursday, 19th May—"Printing Type Design".

The lectures will be in the Gustav Tuck Theatre at 5 p.m.
Admission free.

Correspondence

TV AND LIBRARIES

[A letter from Dr. Savage appeared in our December, 1959, issue, to which Alderman Stott replied in February.]

DR. E. A. SAVAGE now writes:

I can't allow Alderman Stott to take me up the garden path, even in Plymouth. He puts reading above TV. So do I. But he goads me with an age-old prejudice: what is good for the few is harmful to the many. In my late 'teens, sixty-five years ago, schools, universities, books, libraries, and the vote, were good for Tom, but not for Tom, Dick and Harry, who would get ideas above their stations. Ballet, lectures, variety, political debate, lessons on cooking, gardening and physical exercise, and all the other things on TV, have been offered for years past directly to the minority. So they were good or harmless. The same fare for the multitude is "mass influence". If not kept in perspective, says the Alderman, it "will create mental and physical inertia, mass hysteria and mass emotions" (Torquay Conference, *Proc.*, 78). Who is to keep it in perspective, whatever that may mean? The Government! (No so long ago Lord Mancroft, in the House of Lords (July, 1957) advocated "Government-approved textbooks for schools". and then TV and public library books!) Nigel Balchin, in *This Britain* (p. 95) tells of a young man who, after enormous statistical labour, produced some fantastic generalization about the frequency of occurrence of types of human physique. "But it must be so, sir," he said to a world-famous scientist. 'Look at the figures.' 'No', was the irritable reply. 'Don't look at the figures. Go and look at the first six people you meet in the street, and you'll see it's nonsense.' " Let Ald. Stott look about him in Plymouth or anywhere else in these islands and he will notice many signs of solid British sense and no sign of mass neurosis.

To the Alderman TV is a substitute for life, living by proxy, living at second-hand, doing people's thinking for them (*Proc.* 78). The same charges are for ever being brought against reading and class teaching. No intelligent being views or reads or listens without at the same time thinking his own thoughts. How does it help to bait the viewer and to talk scornfully of mass hysteria and emotions? The scolded viewer retorts: "For my mass entertainment, rubbish and all, I pay £30-£35 a year; bought or hired, a set costs that." How many of your readers will pay £30 or even £5 a year for a family ticket at the public library, though there his household will find not only

educative books, but plenty of *Lolita* and lollipop? And all at communal expense!

Ald. Stott's comparison with education is just as unhelpful. In Plymouth children attend school for about 33½ m. hours a year. That costs about £2 m. Plymouth readers pass 36½ m. hours a year in reading. The libraries cost only £80,000 annually. Except for a relatively small amount of reading and study in the premises, a library is used, shop-fashion, by people who come and go. The schools house and teach children, 33½ m. hours a year. Expenditure on them covers milk, often meals service, medical care, labs., work-shops, meeting halls, gymnasias, playgrounds and fields, swimming pools, and masses of apparatus and consumable stores; and over all a large corps of highly-trained teachers, specialist instructors, and administrators. Why can't the Alderman say that he wants so many libraries to do the work that has to be done, and so much money for them, instead of parading this comparison between schools which are virtually homes from home and our simple shop-like institutions? That extravagant comparison harms his cause and ours.

The ebullience of "Dartmoor's" nimble air is in his paper, which I have enjoyed, though in every paragraph I bristle with criticism.

GRAMOPHONE RECORD LIBRARIES

MR. L. KILBEY, B.A., A.L.A., *Branch Librarian, Walthamstow*, writes:

I feel constrained to reply in part to both Mr. Morgan and Mr. Currall, because there seems to be a regrettable suggestion of "one-upmanship" in the points raised by them both and because Mr. Howes has always seemed to me to be more modest than we should allow.

Mr. Morgan feels that it would not be irrelevant to ask for a more precise context than that of a medium-sized public library. The title of the article in question is surely precise enough for its declared purpose; there is no need to be pedantic about it. If Hampstead is so much larger and/or modern, then it is for Mr. Morgan to give us his notes in such a context.

Using public relations as an index of success would show us to be very successful indeed, for we rarely receive complaints about the points raised; usually comments are enthusiastic and even awed. Our borrowers do not complain when our conditions for borrowing are civilly explained to them. Of course, if a note of officiousness were

allowed to creep in, the atmosphere would probably chill, but so it would if you pointedly checked that an applicant did in fact live at the address given, or coldly demanded a guarantee for any purpose. It is the approach and attitude that matters; I agree that if we were to try to score points off our borrowers in the same fashion as your correspondents try to score off us, then they would be justified if they left in a huff.

Mr. Morgan again thinks that it is deplorable not to mourn the loss of a record borrower who will not conform to our standards. To keep such a borrower we must lower our standards; to lower our standards we must spend more money on replacements; more money spent on replacements means less spent on new works. Who is rich enough not to practise economy?

Mr. Currall as well thinks that we are too dictatorial in this respect, but surely all lenders have a right to dictate the terms on which they will lend and especially does this apply to those who lend public property. If the District Auditor calls for the examination of a 39s. 6d. record which has been withdrawn after only a few issues and finds that it has been ruined by a worn stylus or by unsuitable apparatus, would he not be justified in criticizing the authority that would issue delicate scientific apparatus to all and with no more than a pious injunction that they might please take care of it? Even the League of Nations couldn't persuade educated men to behave by passing resolutions. Unfortunately there is a little original sin in all of us, and a show of determination that the benefit of the majority shall not be marred by the selfish obstruction of the minority is resented only by that minority whose loss we at Walthamstow do not mourn. This, I suppose, is old-fashioned, like teaching children good manners and counting one's blessings before one's rights.

Mr. Currall already realizes that his would-be parallels are widely divergent; it would have been better not to have drawn them, for the only point they illustrate is the absurdity of comparing like with unlike. A bad reading lamp cannot injure a book and it is unlikely that just one pair of dirty hands could ruin a book as just one playing with a faulty stylus can ruin a disc.

I do not know why the question of occupation has been raised; this seems to be a red-herring—not a good herring either, because a knowledge of the occupations or professions of one's borrowers is regarded by some as being helpful with book selection.

Finally, it is not disputed that the checking of records is time-consuming—it must be—but let us

not make so much heavy weather about it. We issue half as many discs as Leeds, yet Leeds has a staff of five to administer their stock—plus the music library, which seems to be only about twice the size as ours, anyway—yet we have no extra staff at all. Mr. Howes is a part-time record and music librarian with occasional help from the main counter. Even with issues half the size of that of Leeds, even with the scrutiny of each disc, we still manage very well, thank you, and judging by the residents of neighbouring boroughs who would like to borrow from us, our service is recommended, too.

As a borrower from the record library as distinct from my contact with it as a Branch Librarian, I might say that I much appreciate the reminder that my stylus probably needs renewing. This service may well ensure that I do not ruin my own discs, for quite frankly I cannot be bothered to keep a record of the number of times I play them.

MR. D. G. WILLIAMS, *Assistant, Finsbury Public Libraries*, writes:

Mr. Currall, of St. Marylebone Public Library, argues in his letter (RECORD, February, 1960) that a gramophone librarian should not specialize in technical detail and that no medium to large gramophone library can provide a service of a very high standard. As long as the librarian places his gramophone department on the same plane as his lending department, such a statement is doubtless correct.

It is still, however, not generally realized that there is no parallel between a lending and a gramophone library. Whilst a bibliographical qualification is essential in a lending library, there is a world of difference between a long-playing record and a printed book in a gramophone library, and a knowledge of binding, type-faces, classification, book selection and other related subjects is of no use at all to the gramophone librarian who must possess a working knowledge of music, musicianship and technical detail.

If this difference is appreciated, gramophone library standards could be raised; at the present time the average standard is deplorably low, records are dirty, worn styli plough their grooves, auto-changers are allowed to rip through them one after the other, and careful handling of L.P.s seems to be unheard of. A few libraries do not qualify the preceding statement, but let it be said that they are few and far between.

Mr. Currall's analogy of a new reader being asked whether he possesses a reading lamp of

good design and if he can produce a receipt for soap, bears no relationship at all, for example, to the question of stylus renewal. In the latter instance, the stylus is in *physical* contact with the record, whereas a lamp of 25, 40 or 150 watt power will have no adverse effects on a printed book. The laboratory has proved that worn styli damage records, so why should a library not take steps to prevent worn styli being used? The public library I borrow from operates such a system and I should like to extend my gratitude to the gramophone librarian there for the resultant protection given to both library records and my own. The library is able to spend more money on new records because the turnover rate of replacement is low, thus giving me a wider choice of music and most discs are in very good condition. Microscopic checking is employed because this is the only means of determining exactly the amount of wear that has taken place, and I am informed, and more important still, perhaps, can see for myself when my stylus is reaching the point where it will endanger a record.

The success of this system is demonstrated by the fact that I can borrow a disc which may have been issued 150 times or more and still find that it gives excellent results. This, I think, justifies the system completely, and I doubt very much whether one of Mr. Currall's L.P.s issued 50 times would be of the same standard. Those who think that this sort of checking system is impossible in a busy library should reflect that this is only further evidence that the gramophone librarian should be technically, rather than literary, minded.

Lastly, a few words in defence of Hi-Fi and Hi-Fi Stereo, which are only means to an end, designed to give reproduction as near as possible to the original. If a record is played through a good Hi-Fi system, defects and flaws in the record will be magnified in the same way that the musical quality is much higher. It is, therefore, obvious why the Hi-Fi enthusiast is constantly seeking perfection and I cannot see why the attitude should be taken of looking on him as a nuisance or a fanatic who only wants to hear the cannon in the *1812 Overture* because of this. The question is not one of complaining of slight imperfections, but of being discontented with low standards which need not be. Given the choice of listening to an average library L.P. which has been ripped through countless auto-changers, tracked at anything up to 25 grams and torn to pieces by styli in advanced state of wear, I would without hesitation forgo the somewhat painful distortions that would be audible. Protecting records does not amount to prosecuting borrowers.

THE RIFT IN THE PROFESSION

MR. J. ELLIOTT, A.L.A., *Borough Librarian, Rawtenstall*, writes:

One reason for the "rift in the profession" (of which Mr. Beer so rightly warned us in the February RECORD) is that many are forgetting that we are all, first and foremost, librarians whose main task is the organization and presentation of knowledge, as represented by the printed word and allied forms, to all types of readers and enquirers.

If the nomenclators and abbreviationists really insisted on a complete list of all the developments from our profession which could claim special office, they would need the services of Mr. Kelly to produce it.

The value of a librarian (sometimes called information officer) in a putty knife factory, and indeed his own professional assessment, are not measured by his knowledge of making putty knives (others in the factory have prior claim to that), but by his ability as a librarian who would progressively emulate his colleagues, on both sides, in putty knife bibliography and documentation. The same holds good for most librarians in municipal, educational and private libraries.

Specialization by location or certificate, whilst tending to increase efficiency in particular duties, does not alter the principles of good librarianship: nor should it be a basis for partition and perennial squabbling.

I have read the article on the National Lending Library in the same issue of the RECORD, and still maintain that its accent on staff establishment for such a proposed vast storehouse of recorded information should be on the basis of "Librarian-Specialist" rather than the other way round.

Incidentally, will the ancillary scientist suggested for 3-star libraries be a specialist in one field or an omnifarious superman? It is hardly likely that future planners will tidy up our towns into "one town—one industry". It is often said that three of the most abused words in our language are "technical", "engineer" and "scientist". Should we add a fourth—"librarian"?

It is time then, Mr. Beer, that all bodies responsible for library and information services got together. They might well find a cure for this sectional fever, if *all* aspects of librarianship and all types of libraries were fully considered and represented within the framework of general policy making. The isolationists should not feel that their work would be retarded by a general co-ordination of effort; for we can learn so much from each other—to the benefit of the taxpayer,

both in service and efficiency, including the elimination of costly and unnecessary duplication of effort. This common aim is most essential, for, as we live in an era of technical frenzy, wherein we hope to do something better than anybody else, we must never forget that this aspect is merely a part of living. Success can only be achieved in this field, provided all standards, from laboratory to bench, move hand in hand; so, too, people can only flourish where technology and the humanities are developed on the same plane.

PERFORATED PAGES AND SLOTTED BINDING

MR. E. R. YESCOMBE, F.L.A., *Librarian, The Northern Polytechnic, N.7*, writes:

Recent copies of *Rubber world* have perforated pages to facilitate removal of articles for filing. The pages soon become loose at the gutter and make binding more difficult. In adopting perforated pages, *Rubber world* had hoped to reserve some copies with unperforated pages for library use, but this proved uneconomical.

These difficulties appear to be overcome by *Adhesives age*, December, 1959, which has now adopted slotted binding. The process and merits are discussed on pages 38-40. It is a form of perfect binding with an animal glue formulated to give maximum penetration into the paper (imitation art) and also to set quickly. The adhesive called Perfect Binder Glue C-419 Special, was developed for the Hughes Printing Co. by the American Adhesive Manufacturing Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., and is used exclusively by Hughes for their "Slotted Binding Process".

This process uses a perforating, or boxing device, on the signature folder, so that at the same time as the sections are being folded they are also punched or perforated through the fold, to permit glue seepage. A punching device is used for the perforations on 32 page sections and a slitting device for 16's and 8's.

Collating and binding follows as a continuous operation. The perforated collated sections are fed to a glue binding unit where they pass over a glue wheel which is revolving through a glue pot. The glue (140° to 145° F.) seeps through the slots and the amount of glue is governed by the operator.

The adhesive coated sections then are brought together with the cover of the magazine and trimmed.

The glue can be reheated as it has a long pot

life. It stays flexible and does not crystallize, besides being quick setting.

The gutter margin has been reduced to increase print area and pages do not become detached if the issue is held up by a single page, yet pages can easily be removed by tearing (more easily than issues with perforated margins). The new issues open flat, which is an advantage compared with the previous wire-stitched issues.

"PERFECT" BINDING

MISS M. D. LIGGETT, B.A., F.L.A., *Chief Librarian of Guildford*, writes:

I should be glad to have your readers' comment on the so-called "perfect" binding in which many expensive British books are now being issued. We have had very unfortunate experiences with these in recent months. A number of expensive books fell to pieces after only one or two issues.

I have now determined that, wherever possible, I will not buy books in "perfect" bindings, and I know that many of my colleagues are of the same mind. I understand that the sewing costs are 4d.-6d. a volume according to size. This library buys about 7,000 books a year, and even so has difficulties in supplying the enormous demand. Booksellers in the town agree that the library has enormously stimulated the interest in and sale of books. The question of standards of book production therefore concerns us deeply, and we feel that there should be an agreed policy about such standards.

F.S.S.U.

MR. S. R. BALL, B.A., F.L.A., *Librarian, East Malling Research Station*, writes:

Having had experience of transfer from local government to F.S.S.U. superannuation more than a decade ago, I would like to support Mr. Hope's plea for making available a warning about the disadvantages of F.S.S.U. (February RECORD, page 73).

The "other disadvantages" which Mr. Hope passes over are, if anything, more important than the one he singles out.

This matter cannot properly be dealt with, however, in letters from individuals. It would be reasonable for the L.A. Council or one of its Committees to publish in the RECORD an authoritative comparison of the two systems of superannuation which together would no doubt cover the great majority of L.A. members. I think such a statement would be welcomed and be in the interest of L.A. members generally.

MR. D. G. WALKER, M.A., LL.D., A.L.A., *Deputy Librarian, University College, London*, writes:

I hope that no one will assume that the views expressed by Mr. David W. Hope about superannuation for university library staffs are either representative or well-founded. The point he is trying to make is at best a narrow one and hard cases make notoriously bad law. If an institution has paid out in advance both the whole of its own and the employee's contribution to an annual premium, the employee has incurred a debt which must be repaid if he leaves before the year is up. But this repayment will normally be made by adjusting either the surrender value or the paid-up value of the policies.

It is quite ridiculous distortion to describe this as a "fee to leave" and thus to conclude that the scheme is unsuited to the special needs of librarians. Anyone prematurely leaving *any* pension or superannuation scheme, however constructed, is bound to lose benefits; and the loss is much less with F.S.S.U. than with most schemes.

There may be certain ways in which F.S.S.U. could be improved and these are under continual examination by the Association of University Teachers and the F.S.S.U. Council. But Mr. Hope is very misguided indeed if he does not realize that membership of the scheme, far from being some sort of grievance, is one of the most important advantages which the senior staffs of university libraries enjoy.

DR. K. URWIN, M.A., *Executive Secretary Association of University Teachers*, writes:

My attention has been drawn to a letter on the F.S.S.U. scheme as it affects university librarians. Mr. David Hope presents a somewhat inaccurate view of the situation which may discourage prospective university librarians.

The fact is that the annual premium to an F.S.S.U. policy represents a payment of 15 per cent of salary (5 per cent from the member, 10 per cent from the institution), and this premium is naturally payable in advance. That being so, it follows that, where, in the course of the year, a member leaves university service for some "non-F.S.S.U." post, he cannot reasonably expect the institution to accept the loss of the money already paid, and must expect to repay that part of the premium not referable to his time within the institution.

It is usual, however, when a member leaves an institution for another post which does not involve membership of F.S.S.U., for him either

to receive the return of all premiums paid both by himself and by the institution (from which sum the amount owing on the unexpired part of the last year is deducted), or to have the policies assigned to him, or turned into paid-up policies. Manifestly he cannot expect to have part of the benefit paid for by an institution for which he is not working during part of the relevant time: I cannot honestly see how this can be regarded as a fine. It is true that, if he takes the surrender value, the member loses the superannuation benefits which would have accrued from his years' service in the university, but, as he usually receives about three times what he himself paid in premiums, with a deduction only for the unexpired part of his last year, I cannot believe that he has very much ground for complaint.

It is, by the way, untrue to suggest that this particular difficulty might not inconvenience academics much. If they transfer to a post where F.S.S.U. is not applicable, they experience precisely the same difficulty as librarians: not all premiums fall due on 1st October—the anniversary being dictated by the date from which increases run—and, when they leave at the end of a session, a refund of part of the premiums advanced is due from them to the institution.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL LENDING LIBRARY AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

MR. F. G. B. HUTCHINGS, F.L.A., *City Librarian of Leeds*, writes:

1. Dr. Urquhart (February RECORD) bases opinion on a survey of requests received by the South Eastern Regional Library Bureau. Does he consider this typical and therefore a reliable guide?

2. He says, "You may yet live to see 'N.L.L. approved' signs hanging outside local libraries." If this is not in bad taste, it is surely premature. After all, we are still waiting for the National Lending Library, and surely it must be proved before it can begin to contemplate the approval of others.

MR. D. A. KEMP, *Senior Assistant, Royal Society of Edinburgh*, writes:

With regard to the National Lending Library controversy, I feel that the following points may be of interest to your readers.

I work in a library, 95 per cent of whose stock is made up of scientific periodicals. As it co-operates with the National Central Library and

the Science Library, and has a reputation for quick response to requests and availability of material, it receives a greater than average number of requests, and may, in a small scale, be considered analogous to the proposed National Lending Library.

It is my experience that the administrative processes of such a library can well be undertaken by non-professional staff, provided they are of reasonable intelligence and general education.

Cataloguing presents few difficulties, especially if *World list* procedures are followed, and BUCOP made use of. Classification is elementary (fixed location is useful in such a collection), as is the bibliographical knowledge required. A knowledge of bibliographies and the literature of the science will be possessed by the scientific staff envisaged. The organization will have to be considerably better, with more regard to process-flows, than is evident even in modern public-library building. What is essential to all the processes in such a library is a knowledge of languages; and scientific knowledge, if specialized, can be of great help also.

From the foregoing, is it not evident that the work done in the N.L.L. will be extremely uninteresting to a Chartered Librarian, who after studies with a public-library bias (which is still the case), would surely wish a more satisfying task than being a mere cog in a giant works—and, as things stand, a comparatively minor cog at that.

With these points in mind, the L.A. might care to remember, for once, that there are experts in other than public kinds of librarianship, who can solve their own problems. Only rarely and indirectly will the public libraries—the backbone of the L.A.—be concerned with the National Lending Library.

The Library Association needs a far more liberal outlook, and perhaps after some heart-searching both sides may find it possible to re-unite into a solid profession, as recently exemplified by the Chartered Accountants.

MR. J. L. THORNTON, A.L.A., *Librarian, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College*, writes:

The article by Dr. D. J. Urquhart in your February issue (p. 50) cannot be allowed to pass without comment. The author states of the N.L.L. that "its object is not merely to lend, but to promote the use of scientific literature", and then proceeds to restrict the use of its services to those libraries reaching certain minimum standards "not at present reached by the majority of local libraries".

Dr. Urquhart's suggestion for awarding good

conduct stars for expenditure on guides to scientific literature, and scientific periodicals, with a bonus star for having a trained scientist on the staff, is too ludicrous for words. Should not the Library Association suggest awarding the N.L.L. a star for every trained librarian it employs? Can one envisage libraries rushing to hang Urquhart's "N.L.L. Approved" signs outside their buildings? As librarians perhaps we would rather see the sign "L.A. Approved" hanging outside the N.L.L., with a similar badge appended to every member of the staff of that Library.

If we are to have a successful *national* library, it should be prepared to provide a service to all types of library. Of course, scientists do not use public libraries for procuring their technical literature, but they would do so if it gained them access to the "largest collection in Western Europe of the more recent scientific literature of the world". Public libraries would then be prepared, adequate financial support being available, to cater for this type of reader. That is one way of promoting the use of scientific literature. The fact that the "only suggestion we have received is that we should lend to all public libraries" is probably due to the not unreasonable argument that it is the only logical attitude for a library of the type and size envisaged.

The idea that special libraries will use the services of the N.L.L. to enable them to decide whether they should obtain copies of such books for themselves or not is fantastic. They will continue as heretofore and obtain them from booksellers on approval.

Vast sums of public money will be spent on this N.L.L. venture, of which much will be expected. Dr. Urquhart states that "the problem of co-operation between local libraries and the N.L.L. is much more complex than merely deciding to which local libraries the N.L.L. should lend". That we appreciate, for the solution to this problem can be solved simply by lending to any library seeking assistance in helping the scientist. No library borrows from outside sources books that are constantly requested. It purchases these as far as finances permit, but no library is likely to spend a considerably larger percentage of its income on scientific literature than at present, to the detriment of other subjects, in order to gain access to the facilities of the N.L.L. If it is to be equipped and administered in the manner such as we have been led to believe, it can afford to be generous; in fact, if it is to live up to its title, it cannot afford to be anything other than "national".

H.M.V. CATALOGUES

MR. M. SMITH, 29 *Mere Way, Cambridge*, writes:

I am compiling a numerical list of His Master's Voice gramophone records for the British Institute of Recorded Sound and although I have been reasonably successful in finding the majority of these numbers from various sources, I would like to have a look at any H.M.V. catalogues from 1920/30 and in particular the H.M.V. Historical Catalogue of 1927.

I would appreciate your help in publishing my appeal if you are able. I feel it may bring me the information that I require.

SUNDAY MEETINGS

MR. K. G. BAKEWELL, A.L.A., *Librarian, British Plaster Board (Holdings) Ltd.*, writes:

I wish to bring up a point that has been mentioned before in the correspondence columns of the RECORD, namely, the holding of Sunday meetings.

I recently received notice of a most interesting week-end conference, organized jointly by the University and Research Section and the Reference, Special and Information Section of the Library Association, and to be held in Birmingham during 8th to 11th April. Loyalty to my local church on one of the most important days in the church's year, Palm Sunday, prevented me from attending this conference, much as I would have liked to do so.

While I appreciate that it *may* be necessary to hold these conferences on Sundays, surely they need not be arranged to coincide with important church festivals and surely some free time could be left in the programme for members to attend a place of worship if they so desired. We Christians may be a minority in the profession, but I think we are entitled to some consideration.

THE ROBERTS REPORT

THE CITY LIBRARIAN, *Evan Davies Civic Library, Fremantle, W. Australia*, writes:

I was interested to read in *The Times* of 12th February, 1960, a report of some remarks in the House of Commons concerning the Roberts Report and its implementation. In particular, the remarks of Mr. Hugh Molson, M.P., that "the library service is essentially a thing that should be decided by local authorities, and national standards should not be laid down".

It would be tragic if this view prevailed since it arises, I believe, from a failure to appreciate the true function of a public library service, and a failure to distinguish between the disciplined freedom of a body with a clearly-defined purpose and the self-stultifying freedom of an aggregate of individuals with no common purpose.

I have had 30 years' experience of public libraries in England, where no national standards exist, and 14 months' experience of the Library Service of Western Australia, where "national" standards do exist. I have no hesitation in saying that the difference between the type of service in the two countries is quite incredible. The Library Service of W.A. has been in existence for only a few years, but is already providing a library service to those parts of the metropolitan and country areas, which it has up-to-date been able to cover, which could challenge comparison with the best provision made for comparable populations in England. In a few decades—given the same rate of development—it will be *nulli secundus*.

The reason for this is two-fold. In the first place, an organizational framework has been devised which enables the State to subsidize local libraries, ensure the maintenance of minimum standards of service, provide a reference and information service and an inter-library lending service of conspicuous efficiency and economy, whilst at the same time *preserving the fundamental freedom of local authorities to determine the sort of library service which they will provide*. In the second place, the whole system is unified and vitalized by a clearly-defined policy. This has the result not only of ensuring greater efficiency and economy, but of making library committees and library staffs feel that their work is significant and worthwhile.

In 1954, Fremantle was *free* (i.e., entirely autonomous, running its own show to the limit of its financial capacity) and it had 2,950 readers and an annual issue of 144,769—a record. In 1959, it was part of the Library Service of W.A., and had 10,517 readers (including 2,798 children) and an annual issue of 314,339. Nearly half of the adult books currently in circulation are non-fiction books, and thanks to the organization of the bookstock of the Library Service of W.A., the entire stock of the Service is speedily available to readers in Fremantle.

The fears, which many folk in England entertain, that State intervention in the form of subsidies, inspection, the imposition of standards, etc., etc., will lead to loss of local initiative and enterprise are by no means groundless. But these results are not inevitable. Western Australia provides at least one reassuring example.

Correction

We regret that in the letter from Mr. M. W. Lunt (page 100, March RECORD), owing to a printer's error, the annual expenditure on books by Penzance was incorrectly given. The 2nd sentence of the fourth paragraph (column 2, lines 28-30) should have read:

"The annual expenditure on books for the current financial year is, I believe, £1,500." £5,000 refers to total expenditure on the service.

FEMALE LIBRARIANS REQUIRED?

MISS M. J. LEWIS, A.L.A., *Librarian, Gowers Memorial Library, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases (now working in the Hospitals and Institutions Div., Cleveland Public Library, U.S.A.)*, writes:

I would like to make comment on the correspondence of first, Mr. Saxby (November) and then Mr. Clements (January) in the RECORD.

I feel I am in a position to reply, since Mr. Saxby replied to an advertisement in the T.L.S. for a *locum* librarian for one year in the Gowers Library, National Hospital, while I took leave of absence to work in this department.

The advertisement for the vacancy did not specify male or female, since it was not a foregone conclusion that a woman would be appointed. Had a more suitable male applicant appeared, he would no doubt have been considered. As it was, twelve or more applications were received and the short list was made (in which I participated) taking into consideration age, experience, aptitude, special qualifications, etc.

Since Mr. Saxby does stress hospital librarianship (with children's) as a field from which males are excluded, I would like to give the following as possible reasons why women may be considered more suitable than men. He asks to be enlightened. Perhaps I can oblige.

It is true that hospitals contain male patients as well as women, but male patients are used to being tended by female nurses and doctors, and suffer no embarrassment. On the contrary, in many hospitals in England male nurses and orderlies do *not* attend female patients and in some hospitals in America male doctors are not allowed to treat female patients (or at least the system is: women doctors for women patients, male doctors for male patients).

When a man is ill and sick it has been my experience that he is considerably cheered to be visited by a *female* librarian. Many women on the other hand prefer not to be seen when they are ill and not at their best by a man, but find the company of another woman more restful. The handling of sick people and the patience required in dealing with them seems to come more easily

to women than to men, though, I will agree, there are exceptions in both instances.

I think the strongest opposition to male librarians in hospital librarianship (as opposed to medical librarianship) comes from the hospitals themselves. Women have now become fully accepted on the wards in various guises—doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, almoners, EEG recordists, clinical technicians, volunteer workers, etc., and in all these fields but the first the majority are women.

I hope I have answered some of Mr. Saxby's queries. I think he should, however, continue to apply where the field seems open and not assume that there is any prejudice against his sex.

Library Association Library

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Reviews

BRYANT (E. T.). *Music librarianship: a practical guide*. 1959. 503 pp. (James Clarke & Co., 45s.)

This is the first full length treatment of work in music libraries that has appeared since the war and contains much valuable information compiled from many sources. The first part of the book deals with administration, reference books, cataloguing and classification. Standard reference works in English are well described and there is a very useful description of the music sections in the various classification schemes. Part 1 concludes with a lengthy chapter on gramophone record libraries. This is the best part of the book, because not only is it the most effective exposition of this all-absorbing gramophone business that has yet appeared in professional literature, but also because it is here that a sense of authority and specialized knowledge communicates itself to the reader. Part 2 consists of graded lists of works recommended for stock.

There are serious omissions in the book, although some of them are indicated as such in the text; nevertheless they should be mentioned here. The chapter on reference books and periodicals is written primarily for the student yet there is no information on foreign works; nor is there any mention of collected editions. Throughout the book there are scattered references to service for choirs and orchestras, but this is a highly important aspect of the work, requiring special treatment both in administration and stock selection. The graded lists in Part 2 offer fair coverage, but they exclude transcriptions for which guidance in selection is just as necessary as for original works; they also reflect several incongruities of inclusion and omission. For example, it is difficult to reconcile mention of Gale's "Aquarellen", even at the fifth level of priority, with the total exclusion of Mendelssohn's piano trios and the whole of Bach's *church cantatas*.

Nevertheless, the large amount of information which has been brought together, some of it for the first time, has produced a useful book for students and librarians and should help towards making music service in many public libraries more effective.

K. H. ANDERSON

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE CARE OF CHURCHES
The Parochial Libraries of the Church of England. 1959. 125 pp. 4 pls. (The Faith Press, 42s.)

Publication of this work has been long awaited. Ten years have passed since the Central Council for the Care of Churches was asked to prepare a report on the conditions of parochial libraries in England. This book represents the report of the Committee set up to investigate church libraries and includes a great deal of information of importance to the clergy and to students concerned with the history of the Church and of libraries.

The actual report of the Committee and its recommendations take up only a small section of the book. The Committee records sales of important libraries—especially that of the Shipdham Parochial Library, and deplores the dispersal of these libraries. The importance of advice on library techniques from experts is emphasized by the example of the discovery of a work printed by Caxton, hitherto only known from fragments, by Mr. Paul Morgan, at St. Mary's, Warwick.

All librarians will welcome the proposals which were set out in full in the *RECORD*.^{*} They are clearly designed to ensure the preservation of the church libraries which have survived. Librarians will approve the implication that expert advice should always be sought on the care of books and manuscripts.

The other sections of the book will be important for different reasons. The historical introduction is, as one would expect of Mr. Neil Ker, scholarly, clear and informative. So much new material has come to light, and so much more can be obtained as a result of this survey, that a full history of parochial libraries may now be written.

The chapter on "Early printed books and their care" would be very helpful for incumbents responsible for collections of books, but perhaps might have been more useful issued as a separate pamphlet. The users of this book will, I should expect, be scholars and librarians for whom these instructions on the care of books should be unnecessary. Nonetheless, any attempt to assist in the preservation of early books in their original state is to be applauded.

For me, at least, the most valuable sections of this work are the lists of past and present parochial libraries arranged alphabetically and of mediaeval manuscripts of parish churches. In the former, the editor has given the "basic" details of each library, succinctly and clearly. We

^{*} An article on the Report appeared in the February issue of the *RECORD*, pages 59-60.

have a note of the number of books surviving with a brief historical account of the foundation and development of the collection. Full bibliographical references to catalogues and other works on the libraries are included, although they can often be supplemented from other sources, e.g., Streeter's *Chained library*, p. 295, adds a little information on Denchworth.

The reader should also consult Mr. Ker's *Mediaeval libraries*, pp. 121ff., when consulting the list of manuscripts given here. These manuscripts are, of course, only briefly described, as they will be more fully catalogued in the work which Mr. Ker is preparing on manuscripts of which no printed description exists.

The plates are very good, but I should have preferred reproductions of some of the book-plates to photographs of chained libraries, which can already be found in Canon Streeter's book.

This is a reference book which should be on the shelves of every large public, county or university library. It will be the standard work for many years and as only 500 copies were printed, it will soon become scarce.

K. W. HUMPHREYS

LEWIS (P. R.). *The literature of the social sciences: an introductory survey and guide*. 1960. xx, 222 pp. (Library Association, 28s., 21s. to members.)

Mr. Lewis tells us in his preface that he started work with the idea of producing a guide for students preparing for the Final Examination of the Library Association. He later decided to offer a wider survey that would also interest and help research workers and administrators. It is clear, however, that his terms of reference were largely determined by the first consideration. His basic problem, therefore (as many examination candidates would agree), was how to put a gallon into a pint pot. In addition to economics, economic history, political science and sociology, he had to cover law, international law, international affairs, commerce and statistics. Under these main heads, Mr. Lewis has divided his material into such categories as transport or public administration, which are sub-divided into rail and road transport, central and local government and other specific topics. For each subject he lists a selection of bibliographies, periodicals and major works published up to the end of 1958. Whilst there are one or two notable absentees (Keynes' *General theory* immediately springs to mind), an equitable balance between subjects is maintained. Accurate citations are essential in a work of this kind, and, especially in view of the number involved, the

standard is commendably high. A curious lapse occurs on page 114, where the authorship of Sir Leslie Stephen's *The English utilitarians* is credited to a mysterious character called L. Robson. A detailed analysis of contents and a good index facilitate quick reference.

Besides the literature itself, Mr. Lewis briefly discusses where it can be found and the technical problems it poses. He names representative libraries and institutions at home and abroad that are particularly concerned with each subject, and he touches on questions of classification, cataloguing, book-selection and acquisition. Some of his observations on these last four matters are rather brief and over-simplified. Too general for the librarian or student (who may be expected to know where to find more detailed information elsewhere), these sections seem unlikely to appeal to other readers, and it would probably have been more worthwhile to have omitted them in favour of more bibliographical material.

But these are points for Mr. Lewis to ponder before the next edition, for although his book is likely to have a long and useful life, it needs to be kept up to date. As it is, he has mapped the principal landmarks in a notoriously sprawling area with much sense and ingenuity.

T. H. BOWYER

PICKETT (A. G.) and LEMCOE (M. M.). *Preservation and storage of sound recordings*. Library of Congress, Washington. 1959. U.S. 45 cents. (Obtainable from H.M.S.O. on special order, 4s. 6d. post free.)

The Library of Congress has never had any particular qualms about including new media for the preservation of knowledge and historical data within its huge stock. As a result it now has an outstanding collection of sound recordings, whilst in England the British Institute of Recorded Sound has only just been able to make a modest start on a similar undertaking.

With the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, an intense and exhaustive study has now been made by the authors of the many highly technical aspects of preserving sound recordings. The majority of the material in this book will, of course, be of little use to public librarians dealing with small collections of gramophone records, but on page 51 they will find the long-sought answer to the question, "Should records be stored vertically or in a horizontal position?" The answer is a very definite one in support of vertical storage, with many serious statements regarding possible damage resulting if flat storage is adopted. This point alone would make the reading of the

book worthwhile, the more so as in the latest book published on music libraries,* it is again stated that apart from inconvenience, there is little to be said against horizontal storage!

Some libraries are now building up "local collections" of tape recordings, and such libraries will turn with interest to the section devoted to these. Here we learn that some early tape recordings are no longer playable after only five years, and that even when the newer tapes are kept, every two years they must be *rewound in the opposite curvature* to the previous winding to prevent print-through and other faults. At Walthamstow it has been our policy to store only acetate discs cut from tapes lent to us, and to return the original tape to the owner. This policy would seem now to be a very reasonable one, providing the acetate discs are stored under the conditions suggested by the authors. Libraries building up larger archives of recorded material would perhaps be wise to store both the original tape and a disc cut from it when it was in perfect condition.

This is, therefore, a work worthy to rank with the standard volumes on the preservation of printed material, and should interest all who believe that the duties of librarians include the preservation and dissemination of recorded knowledge irrespective of the media used.

J. W. HOWES

RANGANATHAN (S. R.). *Elements of library classification*. 2nd ed., revised. Ed. B. I. Palmer, 1959. (A.A.L., 16s., 12s. to members.)

The title of this book is misleading, especially to the student, for the *Elements* refer mainly to those principles which underlie Dr. Ranganathan's own *Colon classification*. The text is based on a series of lectures delivered in India in 1944, and repeated at various Schools of Librarianship in this country during 1956. This edition has been partially re-written by B. I. Palmer for the benefit of British librarians.

Ranganathan follows in Bliss's footsteps, using selected "examples" to criticize the Decimal Classification and extol the relative merits of his own scheme when assessed by a series of elaborate "Canons", which he himself has propounded. Unfortunately for the thesis, nearly all the examples quoted from Dewey and the method of number building have recently become completely outdated by the publication of the new 16th edition.

Dewey's schedules have always been recognized

* Bryant, E. T., *Music librarianship*, page 226. (Reviewed in this issue, page 135.)

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as enumerative, yet, despite Ranganathan's admission (p. 84) that such a scheme "does not rest on a facet analysis", his approach to the Decimal Classification is by the Colon facet formula, Time, Space, Energy, Matter and Personality. In particular, specific notations are built up (and criticized) by the method of synthetic subdivision peculiar in practice to the *British National Bibliography* and expounded in theory in Palmer and Wells's *Fundamentals*. The author is on safer grounds on the few occasions in which he cites the Universal Decimal Classification.

Apart from the introductory pages, this book should be considered only as an elementary introduction to the Colon Classification—that unique scheme which, although neglected in libraries throughout the world, has had such an influence on certain teachers of classification in this country. On the other hand, the student with the new edition of the Decimal Classification at his side must surely recognize the complete collapse of the attempt to develop this classification according to "analytico-synthetic" methods and this may well herald the end of a not too successful experiment.

The book is published as a new, larger, easier-to-read A.A.L. Primer—a definite improvement on the format of the old "Yellow Peril" series.

W. HOWARD PHILLIPS

Studies in bibliography: papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia. Volume 13. 1960. (Univ. of Virginia.)

It is difficult to realize the passage of time which has now brought thirteen multi-coloured volumes of these annual papers to our shelves. All have been edited by Fredson Bowers and few series can ever have borne greater testimony to the ideas and ideals of their editor. Coming to us from the architectural gem of American universities, founded by the greatest American in history, these *Studies* have now made themselves an indispensable part of the bibliographical literature of our time.

Pride of place in this latest volume must be granted to two papers by British contributors. John Russell Brown, of Birmingham University, writes on "The rationale of old-spelling editions of the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries" and a rejoinder is attached from Arthur Brown of University College, London. Both authors are at present engaged in editing texts which will clearly demonstrate the differing points of view which they advance in their articles. In a

notice for this particular journal it must be stressed that what is important is that librarians who will be concerned with the selection and exploitation of such edited texts should be thoroughly aware of some of the editorial principles involved. This is a matter which one waits in vain to see emphasized in our book selection examination papers. Above all, in case some of Fredson Bowers' warnings of the past few years have gone unheeded, we should pay particular attention to Arthur Brown's reservations regarding photographic editions. These cannot be repeated too often for the well-being of librarianship. This Brown-exchange is a well-argued debate and merits attention.

Cyprian Blagden adds yet another piece to his fascinating jig-saw of 16th- and 17th-century publishing history. This used to be one of the really dark areas in our knowledge of the book trade, but increasing use of primary source material has already begun to change the position radically.

For those who complain occasionally that bibliography seems to spend all its time in "ages past", there is a welcome corrective from Matthew J. Bruccoli, who writes a note on Scott Fitzgerald's *The beautiful and damned*. It hardly needs saying that Mr. Bruccoli is American, because in this country we have scarcely yet begun to bring bibliography to bear on the problems of 20th-century writers.

In such a brief notice as this it is impossible to do justice to this book, but there must be a final mention of the usefulness of the annual bibliographical check list which is now a feature of the *Studies*. Used in conjunction with the cumulative issue of Volume 10 of the *Studies*, it has achieved independent status as a most welcome tool.

ROY STOKES

COPLAN (KATE). *Effective library exhibits; how to prepare and promote good displays.* 1958. New York, Oceana Pubs. (Hatchards.)

This is the first comprehensive book on display techniques and their employment for public libraries which I have yet come across.

The authoress, Kate Coplan, is "Chief, Exhibits and Publicity, Enoch Pratt Free Library", and she has been doing her job for 32 years. Inevitably, her approach to the subject is highly Americanized, but as the Americans are admittedly masters of sales techniques, if you are interested in such for libraries, then you will be very interested in all that this book has to offer.

The book deals with the three basic aspects of display. Firstly, it discusses with much practical

wisdom *why* display is necessary for public libraries; secondly, it deals with where and how to use display, and thirdly, it describes in detail the practical mechanics of creating displays from simple posters to extensive book exhibitions.

Her arguments for display are as apposite for English libraries as they are for American. In our day and age, if you have something worthwhile to offer the community then you must not be content to sit back and hope for spontaneous recognition. There is too much competition for people's time and attention, and you must be prepared to seize your share of both.

Her policy of taking library displays to the people wherever possible is deliberately designed to ensure "integration of the institution with the life of the city". She recommends (how much I agree with her!) that the library should link its displays with the normal intellectual life of the community it serves. So its exhibits may appear in schools, factories, shop windows, conferences and wherever people meet to work or play.

The whole book, and particularly the last section, is copiously illustrated with photographs and examples of displays and posters, many of which can be applied directly in any British library, though—and this is my one criticism—I feel that most of her display ideas could have been presented with just as much punch, but with a much greater aesthetic appeal.

W. BEST HARRIS

Obituary

MISS W. E. ALDER-BARRETT

MISS E. R. TAMPOE, *Librarian. Dept. of Survey, University of Ceylon*, writes:

It was with a profound shock that I read the obituary of Miss W. E. Alder-Barrett in the December, 1959, *RECORD*, which I received recently.

I worked for her at the Cambridgeshire County

Library from February, 1944, till she left us to go to Cumberland County Library in 1946.

This was my first introduction to librarianship, and though I went there as her secretary, as we were so short of staff during World War II, I took part in the work of the library as well.

Miss Alder-Barrett always impressed me as full of enthusiasm and energy for her work, and her example inspired me to study to qualify myself.

After I left England we corresponded regularly, though not often, and her letters were always full of that joy in her work and interest in mine, that made her a splendid example of industry, and what was equally valuable, a very dear friend.

Appointments and Retirements

BARNARD.—Miss J. R. Barnard, Librarian, BISRA Park Lane Library, to be BISRA London Librarian.

BRIMELOW.—Mr. T. Brimelow, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Manchester College of Science and Technology L., to be Librarian, Paper and Board Divisional Laboratory Library, Albert E. Reed & Co., Ltd., Larkfield, nr. Maidstone, Kent.

BROMLEY.—Mrs. J. Bromley (*née* Brierley), B.A., A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Nottingham P.L., to resign.

BROWN.—Miss B. Brown, A.L.A., Assistant, York P.L., to be Children's Librarian, Hove P.L.

BUTTERFIELD.—Mr. D. Butterfield, B.A., F.L.A., Deputy Chief Cataloguer, Bradford P.L., to be Chief Cataloguer.

BUXTON.—Miss D. M. Buxton, Assistant, Derby P.L., to be Assistant, Stafford P.L.

CLARKE.—Mr. D. E. Clarke, A.L.A., Assistant, British United Shoe Machinery Co., Ltd., Leicester, to be Information Officer/Librarian, British Manufacture and Research Co., Ltd., Grantham.

CROPPER.—Miss J. E. Cropper, Assistant, Lanes. Co.L., to be Assistant, Islington P.L.

CUSHING.—Mr. L. A. Cushing, M.A., F.L.A., Branch Librarian, Wembley Branch, Middlesex Co.L., to be Branch Librarian, Wembley Town Hall Branch.

HARRIS.—Mr. K. G. E. Harris, M.A., F.L.A., Chief Cataloguer, Bradford P.L., to join the firm of Julius Hainauer, Ltd.

HAYWORTH.—Mr. P. H. Hayworth, Assistant, Worcs. Co.L., to be Assistant Librarian, National Central Library.

HEATH.—Miss R. B. Heath, A.L.A., Assistant, Books Dept., British Council, to be Librarian, British Council, Yugoslavia.

HINCKLEY.—Miss E. M. Hinckley, F.L.A., Head Cataloguer, El Paso P.L., U.S.A., to be Catalogue Librarian, Arizona State Univ. L.

HOPE.—Mr. D. S. Hope, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Croydon P.L., to be Lending Librarian, Richmond P.L.

HOWES.—Mr. J. R. Howes, F.L.A., Branch Librarian, Paddington P.L., to be Deputy Librarian, Upper Norwood L.

HUMPHRIES.—Miss P. Humphries, Assistant, Bournville Works Library, to be Assistant, Redditch P.L.

KENNEDY.—Mr. R. F. Kennedy, F.L.A., City Librarian of Johannesburg, to retire.

KNIGHT.—Miss D. Knight, B.A., F.L.A., Librarian, National Institute for Research in Dairying, to retire.

A TOPOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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KNIGHT.—Miss P. Knight, A.L.A., Assistant Librarian, Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria, Nigeria, to be Branch Librarian, Nigerian College of Technology, Ibadan, Nigeria.

LANCASTER.—Mr. F. W. Lancaster, A.L.A., Senior Librarian, Akron P.L., Akron, Ohio, to be Librarian, Babcock & Wilson Co., Boiler Division, Barberton, Ohio, U.S.A.

LORD.—Mr. G. W. Lord, B.A., A.L.A., Librarian, Mander College, Bedford, to be Tutor Librarian, Exeter Technical College.

LUCAS.—Mr. S. T. Lucas, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Chester P.L., to be Sub-Librarian, Reference Library, Kingston-upon-Hull P.L.

MC AULAY.—Miss A. M. McAulay, B.A., F.L.A., Chief Cataloguer, Nottingham Univ.L., to be Librarian, Magee Univ. Coll.L., Londonderry.

MARKHAM.—Mrs. J. E. Markham to be Librarian, Veterinary Research Station, Mpwapwa, Tanganyika.

MARTIN.—Mrs. D. A. Martin, A.L.A. (née Season), Senior Assistant, Coleshill Region, Warwicks. Co.L., to be Branch Librarian, West Harrow Branch, Middlesex Co.L.

NICHOLSON.—Miss J. M. Nicholson, F.L.A., Senior Assistant, Upper Norwood P.L., to be Lending Librarian.

OWEN.—Miss J. M. Owen, B.A., A.L.A., Periodicals Librarian, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, to be Cataloguer, Sion College, London.

PARKINSON.—Miss D. J. Parkinson, A.L.A., Administrative Assistant, Crosby P.L., to be Librarian, Horsforth P.L.

PARTRIDGE.—Mr. D. A. Partridge, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Banbury P.L., to be Assistant Librarian, Harold Hill Branch, Essex Co.L.

PERERA.—Mr. D. J. B. Perera, A.L.A., to be Branch Librarian, Nigerian College of Technology, Enugu, Nigeria.

REED.—Miss M. Reed, A.L.A., Lending Librarian, Upper Norwood P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Lambeth P.L.

ROCHFORD.—Miss R. E. Rochford, A.L.A., Assistant Children's Librarian, Fulham P.L., to be Children's Librarian, Paddington P.L.

SAY.—Mrs. M. M. Say, A.L.A., to be Branch Librarian, Bradford P.L.

SHADRAGE.—Mr. A. M. Shadrake, M.A., Senior Assistant, Islington P.L., to be Chief Library Assistant, Royal College of Surgeons of England.

SHIELDS.—Miss E. A. Shields, B.A., Assistant, Carlton P.L., to be Mobile Librarian, Northants. Co.L.

SILVERWOOD.—Mr. T. A. Silverwood, Head of Loans Section, English Electric Co. Ltd., Whetstone/Rugby Library, to be Librarian, English Electric Co. Ltd., Bradford.

SINCLAIR.—Miss J. Sinclair, A.L.A., Assistant, Eastleigh Branch, Hants Co.L., to be Branch Librarian, Walton and Weybridge Branch, Surrey Co.L.

SMITH.—Miss A. H. Smith, M.A., F.S.A.L.A., Curator, Africana Museum and for many years Senior Librarian, Johannesburg P.L., to be City Librarian of Johannesburg.

SMITH.—Mr. J. Smith, F.L.A., Assistant, St. Marylebone P.L., to be Librarian, High Wycombe College of Further Education.

SMITH.—Mr. N. E. Smith, F.L.A., Librarian, City Information Service, Hull P.L., to be Librarian, Commercial and Technical Library.

TENNENT.—Mr. S. H. Tennent, F.L.A., Reference Librarian, Edinburgh P.L., to be Chief Assistant.

THOMAS.—Mr. G. Thomas, B.A., A.L.A., Regional Librarian, Atherstone Region, Warwickshire Co.L., to be Chief Assistant, Brecon Co.L.

THOMPSON.—Mr. J. Thompson, B.A., A.L.A., Assistant Cataloguer, Nottingham Univ.L., to be Chief Cataloguer.

TOASE.—Mrs. M. Toase, A.L.A., to be Consultant Technical Librarian, Rural Industries Bureau.

TOMLINSON.—Miss J. Tomlinson, Assistant, Loughborough P.L., to be Senior Assistant, West Bridgford Region, Notts. Co.L.

TOPPING.—Mr. T. Topping, A.L.A., Library Assistant, Standish Area, Lancs. Co.L., to be Deputy Librarian-in-charge, Horwich Region, Lancs. Co.L.

TYERMAN.—Mr. H. Tyerman, A.L.A., Deputy Librarian-in-charge, Horwich Branch, Lancs. Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, Central Lending Library, Coventry P.L.

WALKER.—Mr. R. J. A. Walker, Head of Cataloguing Section, English Electric Co., Whetstone, Leicester, to be Head of Loans Section.

WALKER.—Dr. T. MacCallum Walker, M.A., F.L.A.I., Librarian, Magee Univ. Coll., Londonderry, to be Deputy Librarian, Glasgow Univ.L.

Corrections

ABEL-SMITH.—Miss A. Abel-Smith, A.L.A., Children's Librarian, Worsley Area, Lancs. Co.L., to be Assistant Librarian, in charge of School Libraries, Salford P.L.

ATKINS.—Mr. R. F. Atkins, A.L.A., Deputy City Librarian of Peterborough, to be Deputy Borough Librarian of Bromley.

GALLAGHER.—Miss J. E. Gallagher, F.L.A., Students' Librarian, Cornwall Co.L., to be Cataloguer, Grimsby P.L.

Appointments Vacant

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Reference Catalogue of Current Literature, 2 vols., 1957. Librarian, Gloucestershire Training College of Domestic Science, Oxtails Lane, Gloucester.

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Alice Langley Hsieh analyses the impact of the concepts of nuclear warfare upon the top military leadership in China in the April-June issue of *The China Quarterly*. This, the first Western journal specializing in studies of the contemporary Chinese scene is designed to provide scholars and the interested public with comment, documentation and controversy covering the whole range of the "China problem". Issue one—a few copies are still left for those improvident not to have got one already—featured an appraisal of the communist regime's first decade by leading experts including Howard L. Boorman, C. P. Fitzgerald, Robert C. North, and Choh-ming Li. In the forthcoming April-June issue Benjamin Schwartz replies to Karl A. Wittfogel's challenge to his "Maoist" theory. Other contributors include H. F. Schurmann on Organizational Principles and Hugh Howse on Radio as a Propaganda Weapon.

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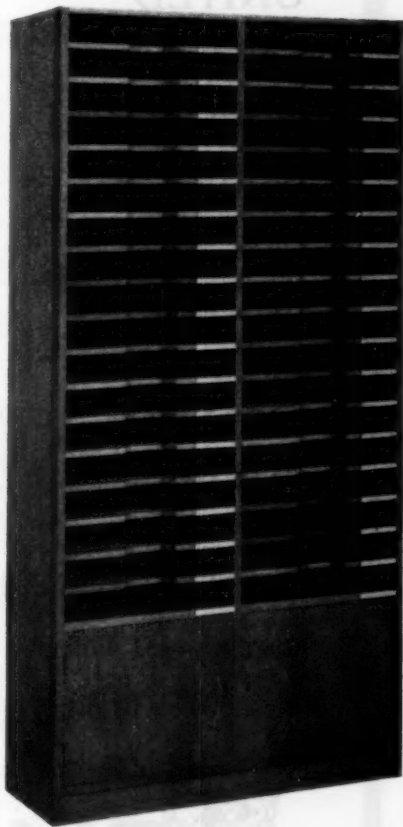
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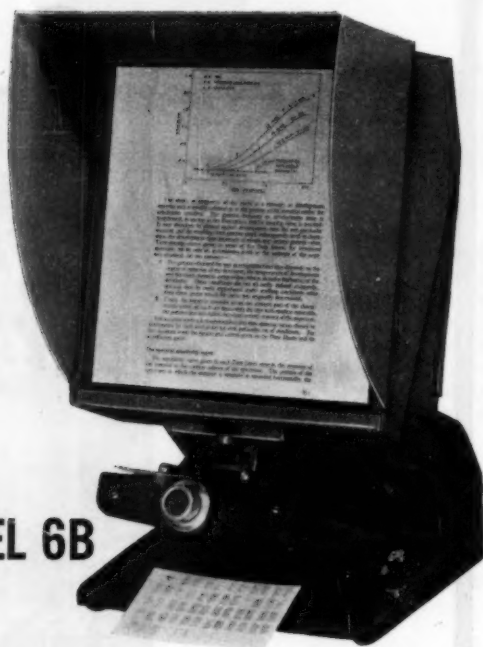
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